

FAIRY TAIL

53



Hiro Mashima

Fairy Tail

53



HIRO MASHIMA

FAIRY TAIL 53

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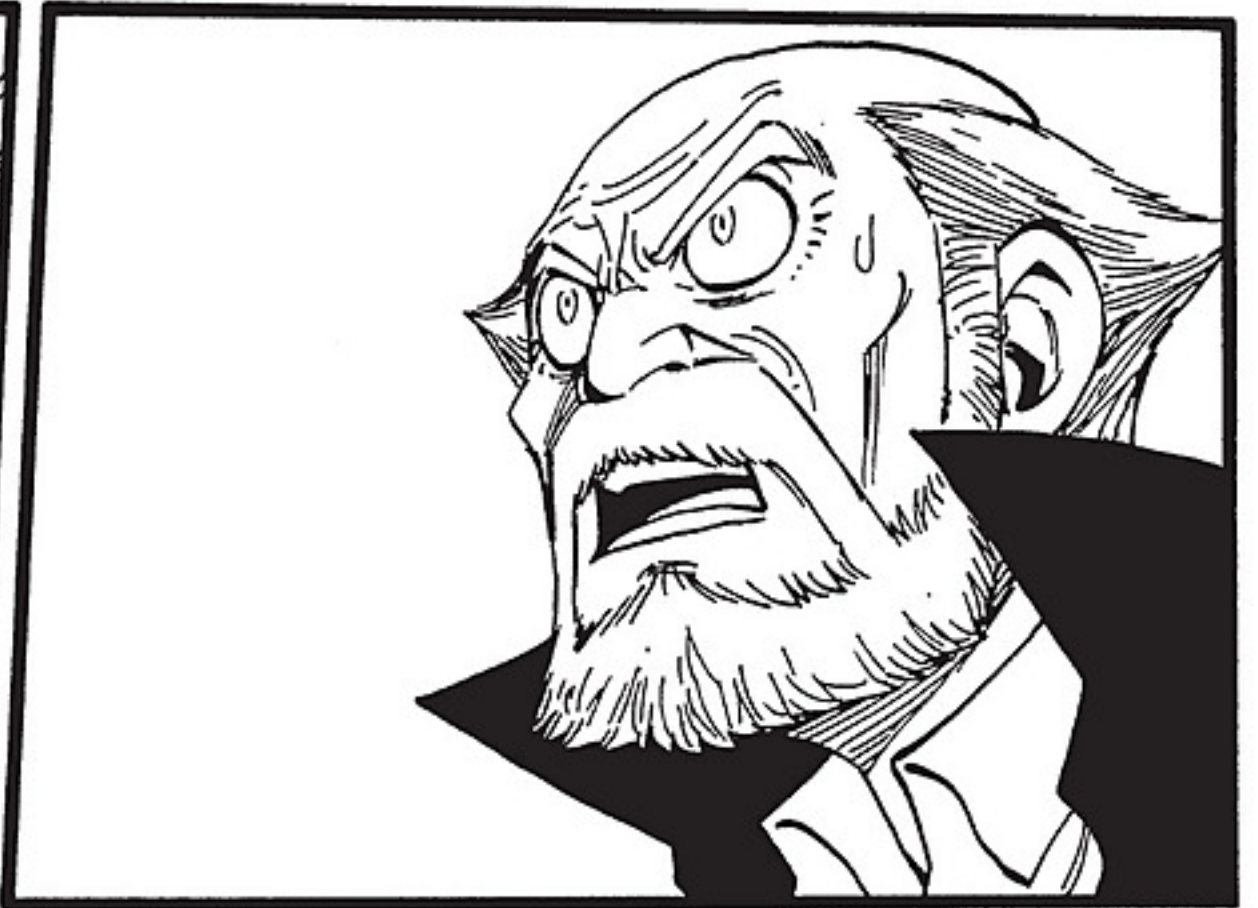
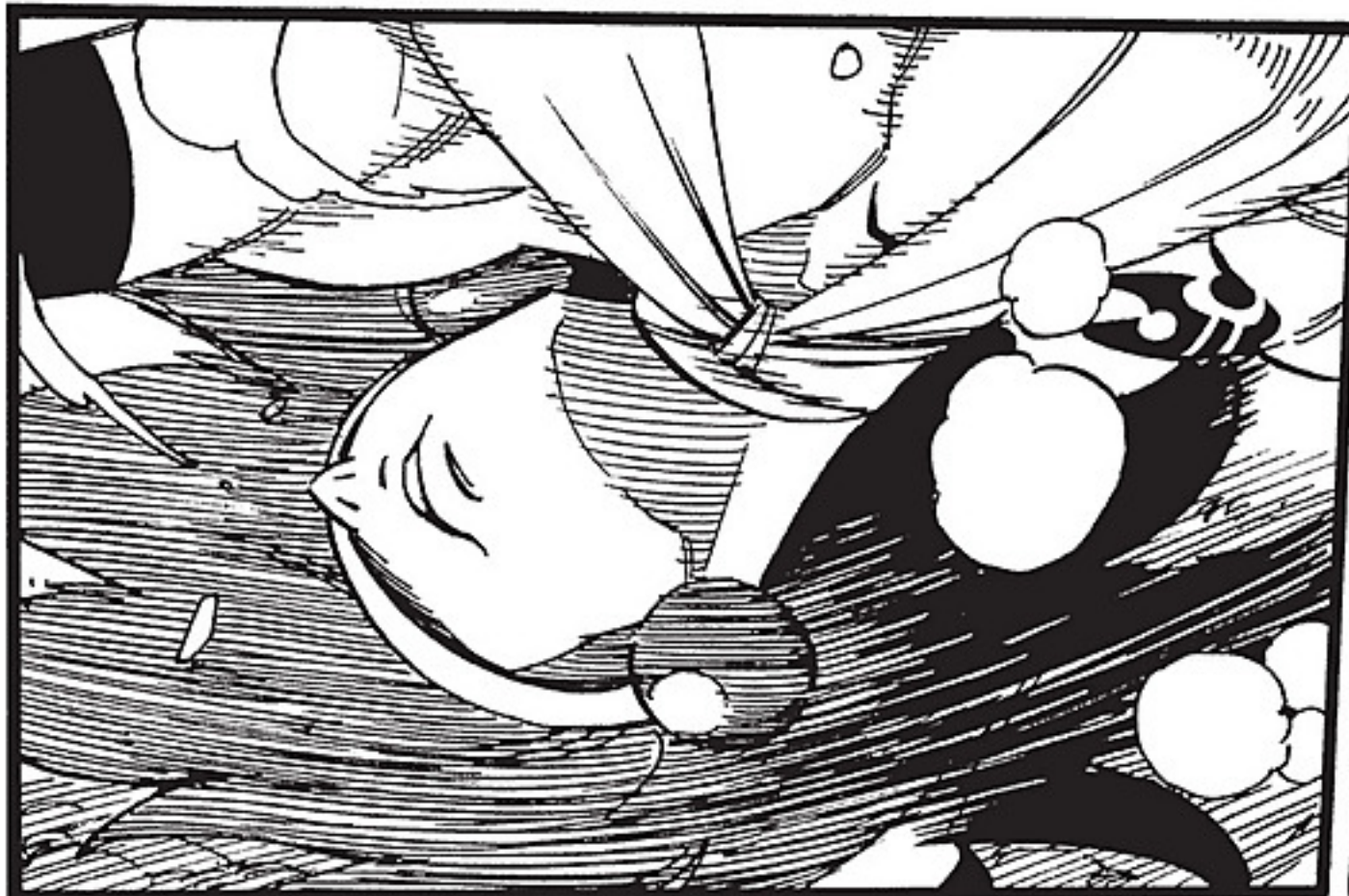
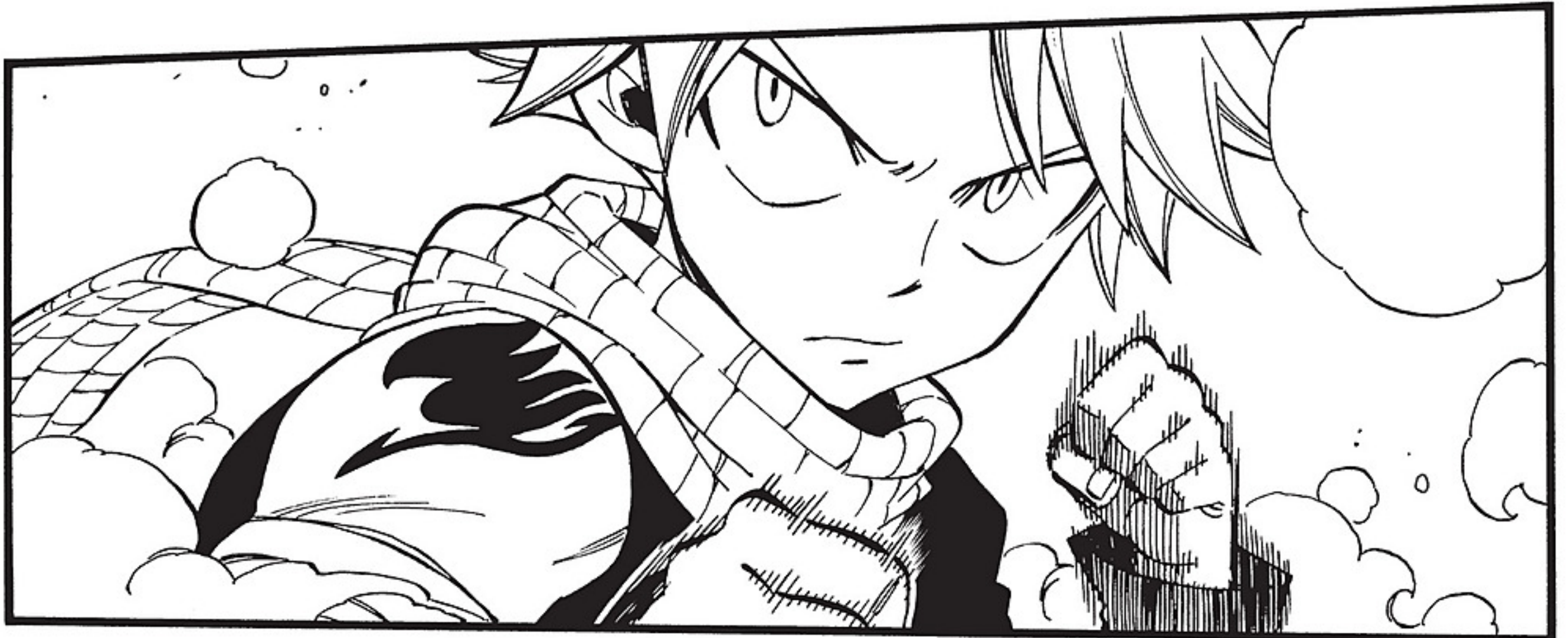
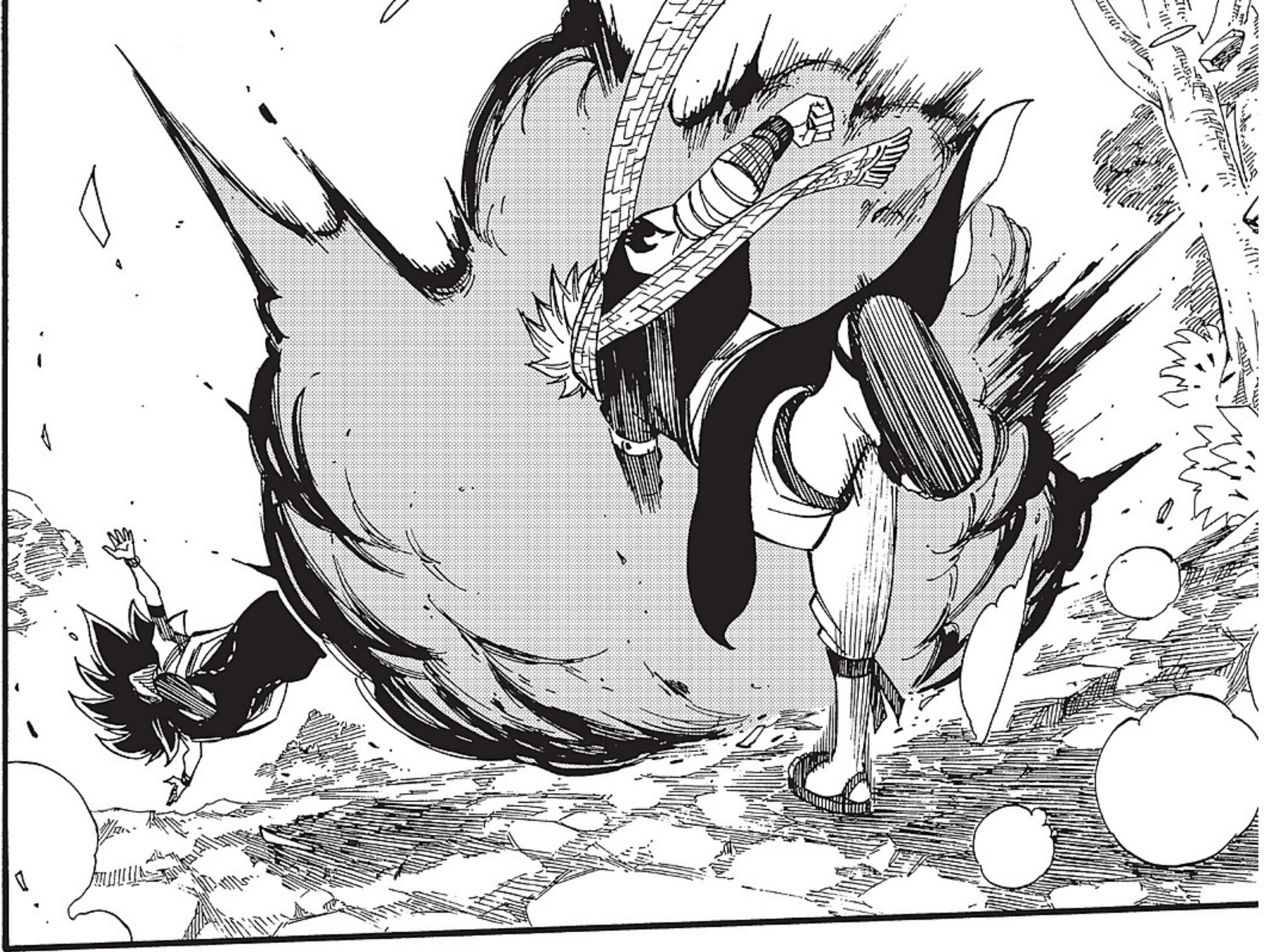
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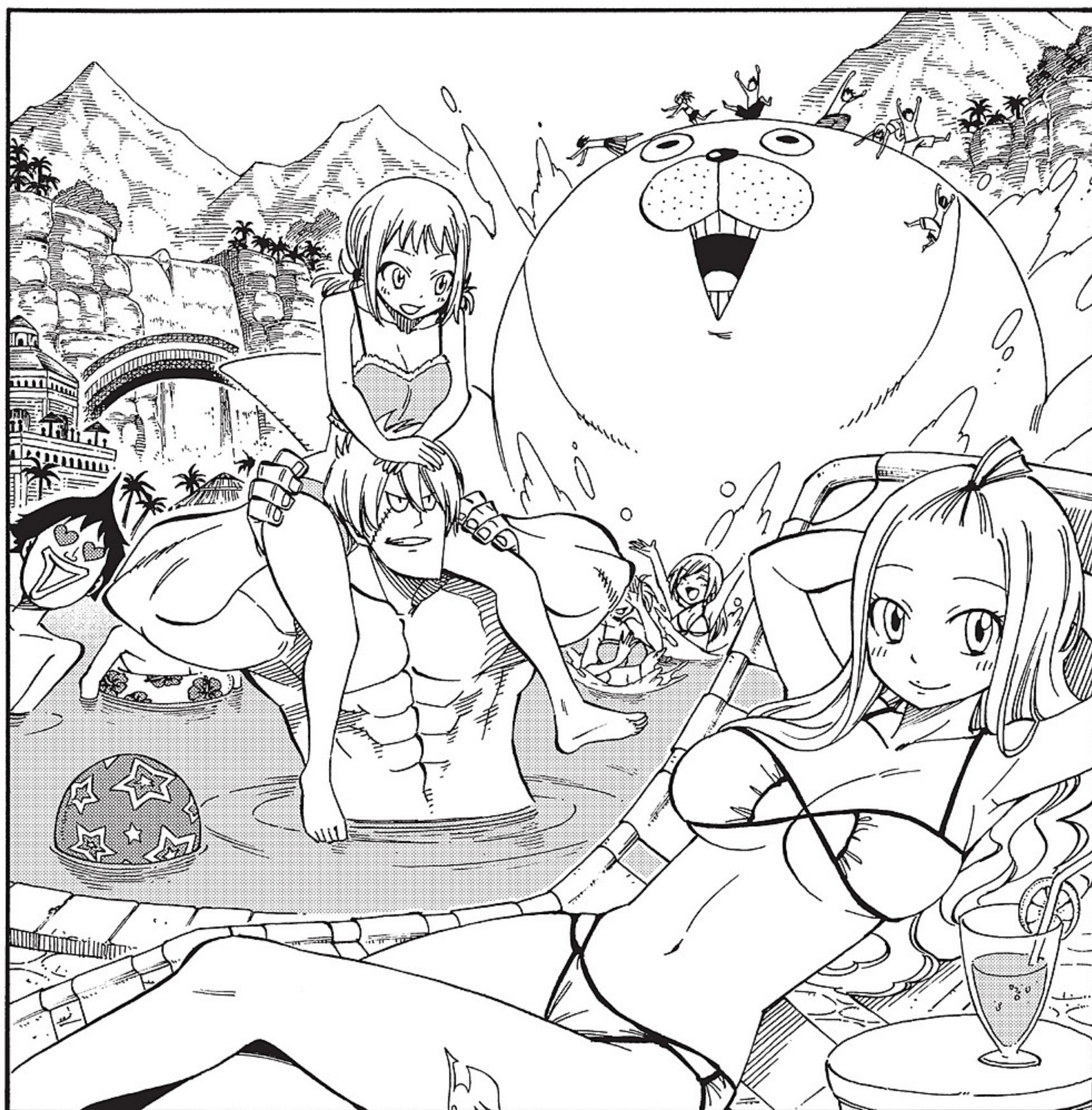
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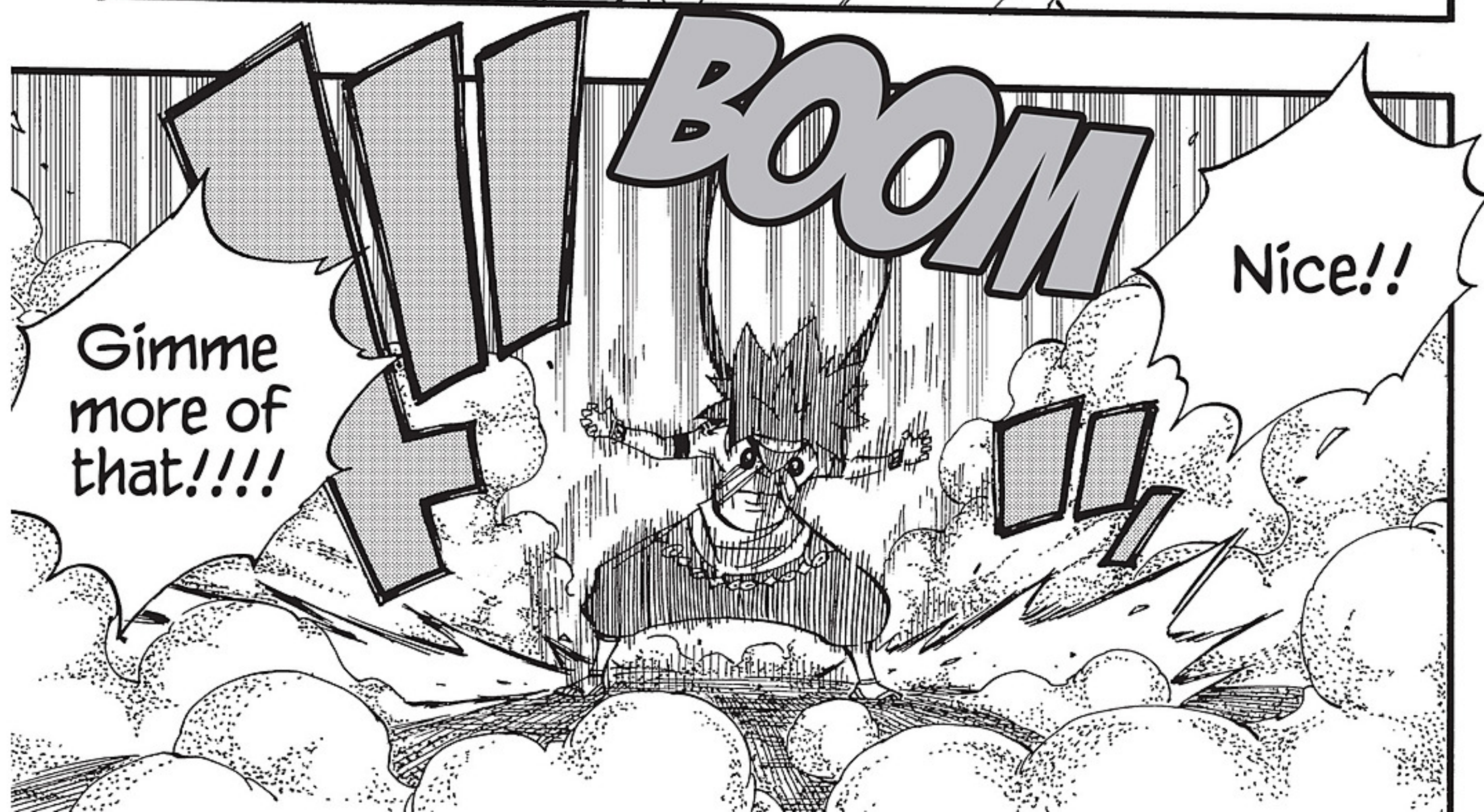
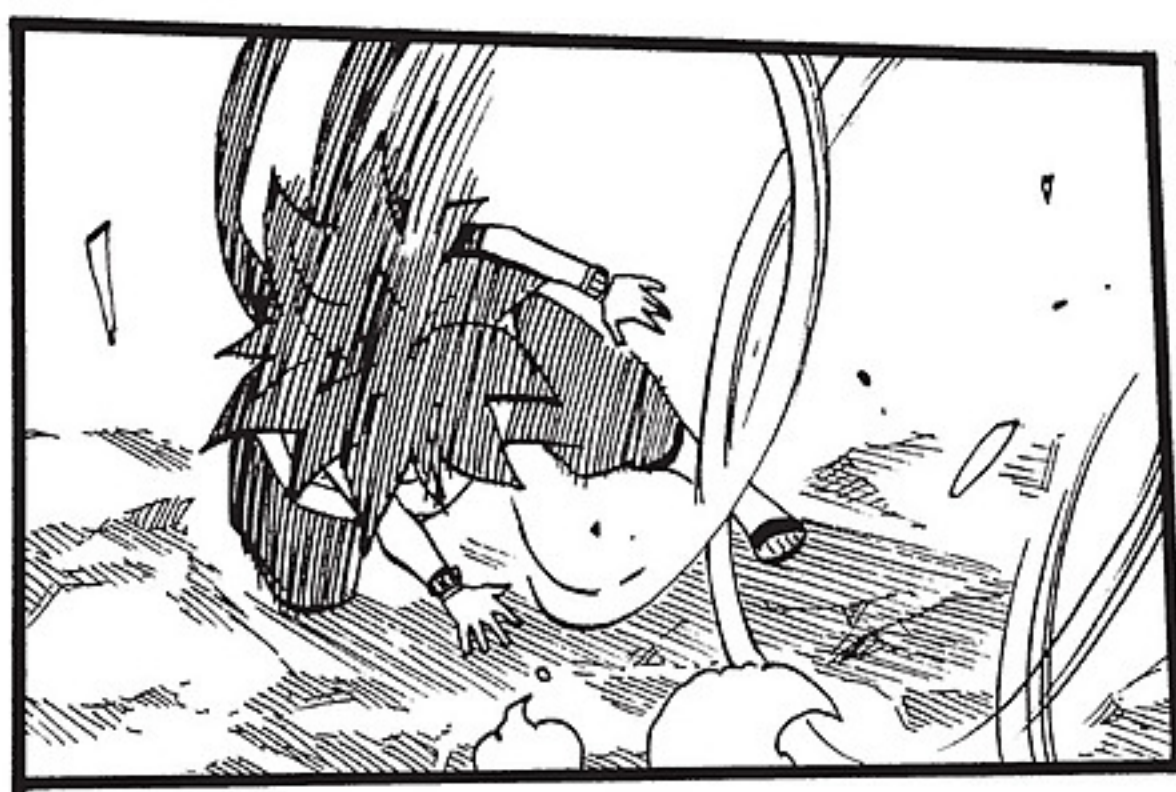
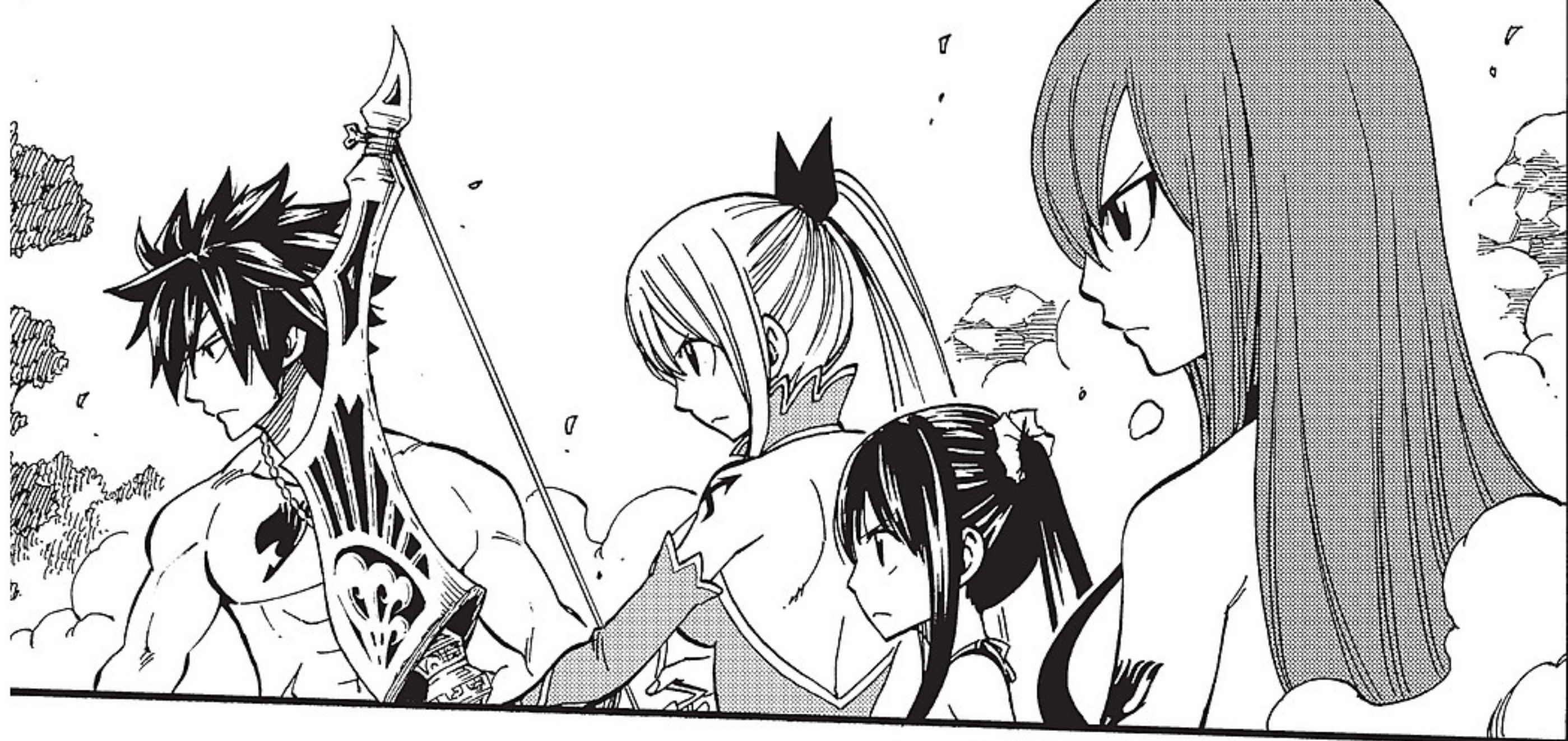


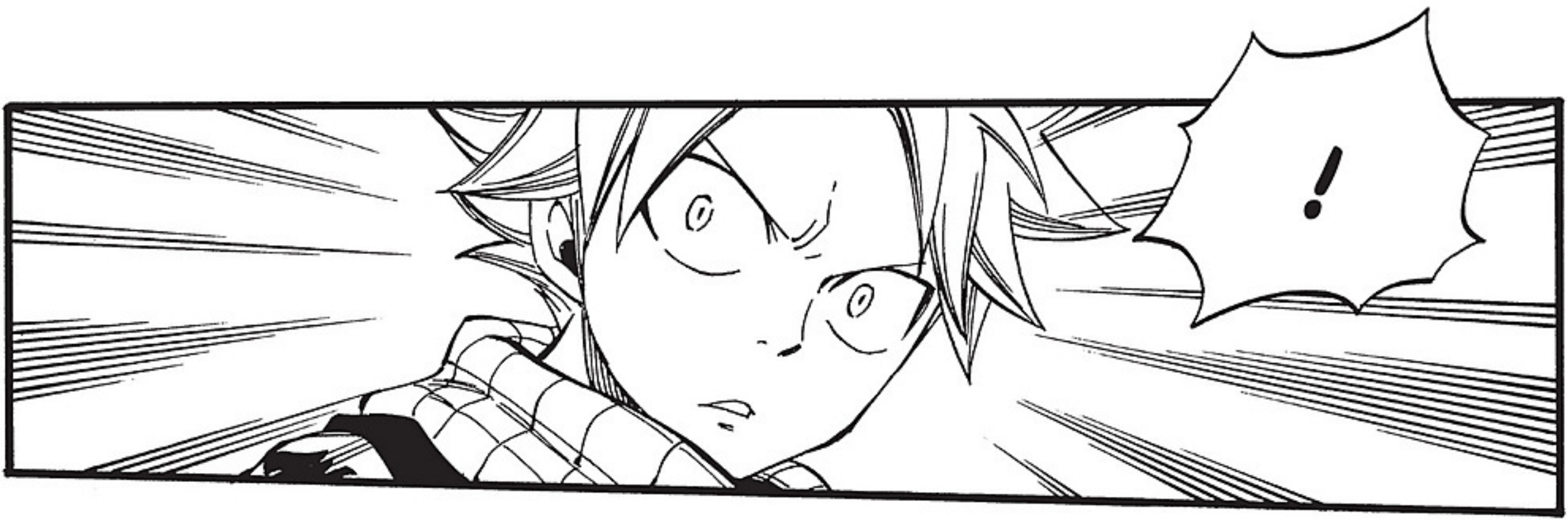
FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 447: The Fight to Flee









Thirst!!



You little...



The sand... This is bad!



The sand's sticking to me...

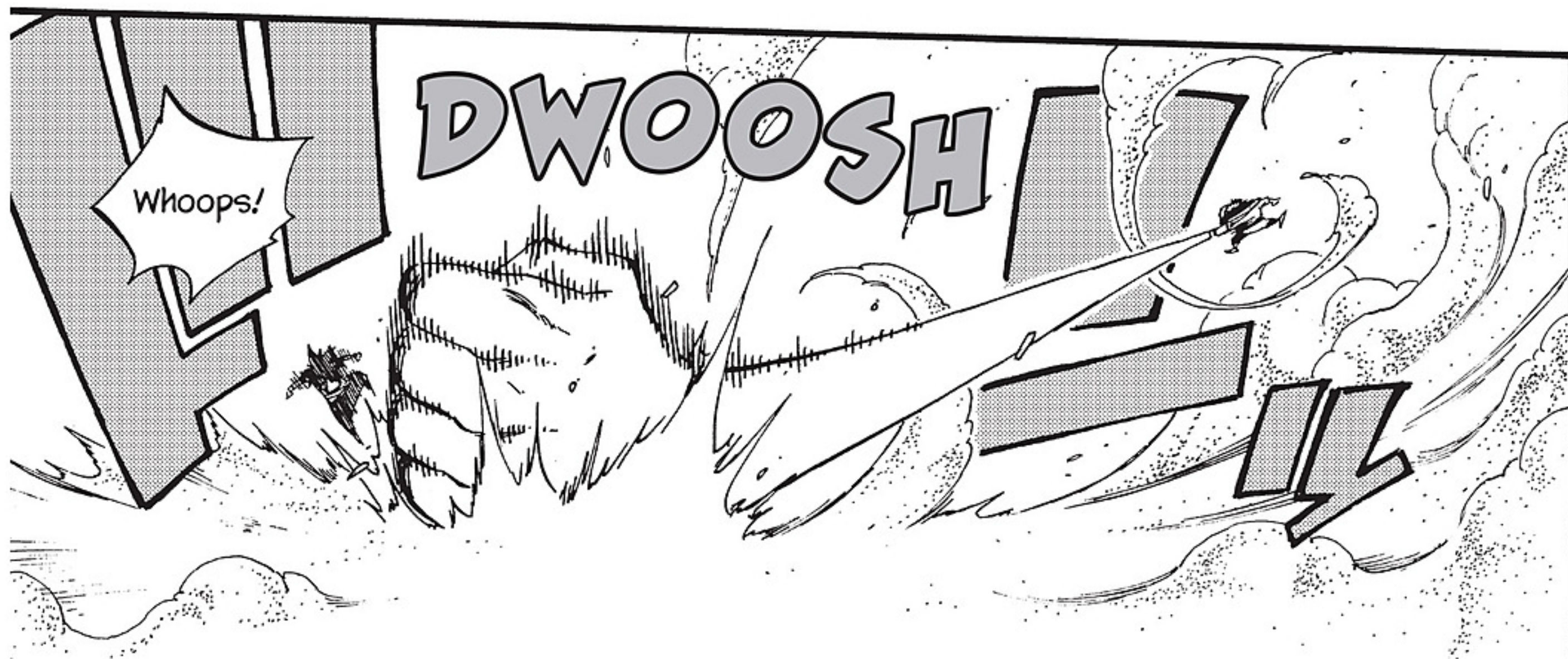
Aah !!



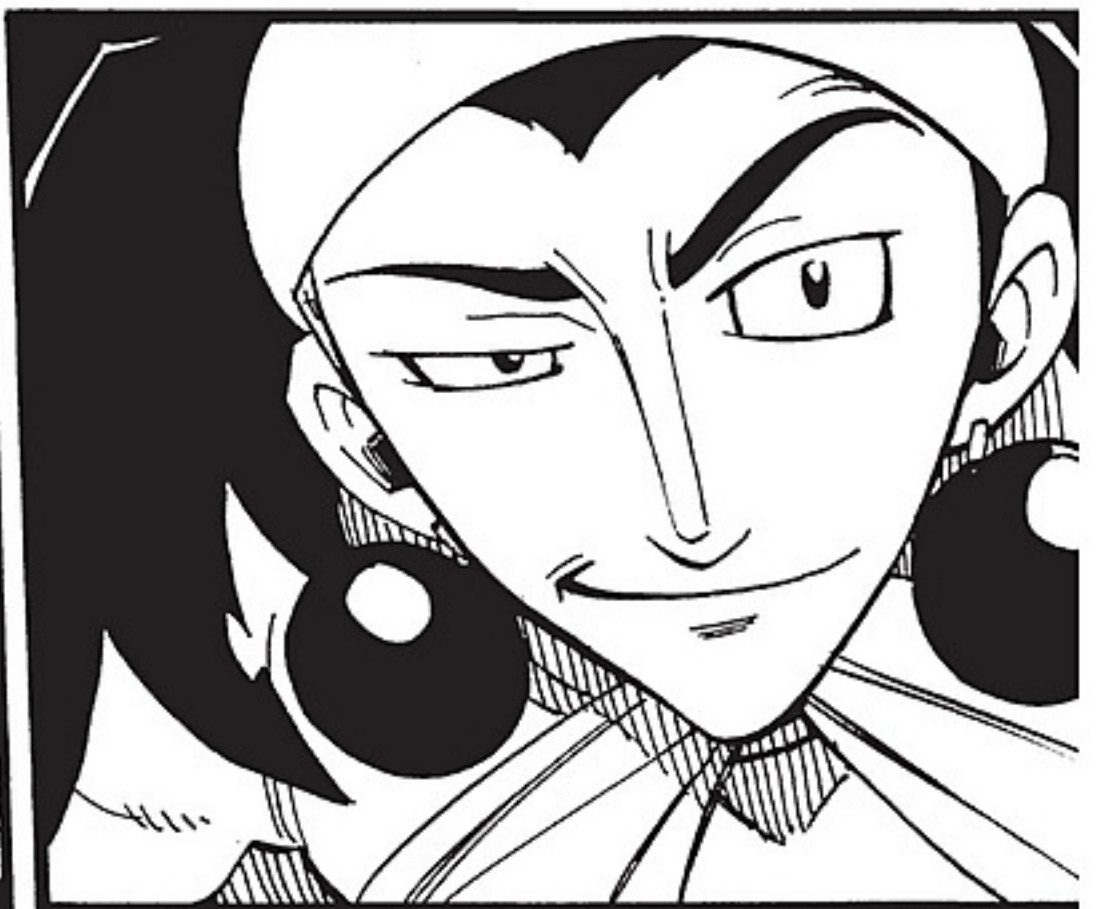
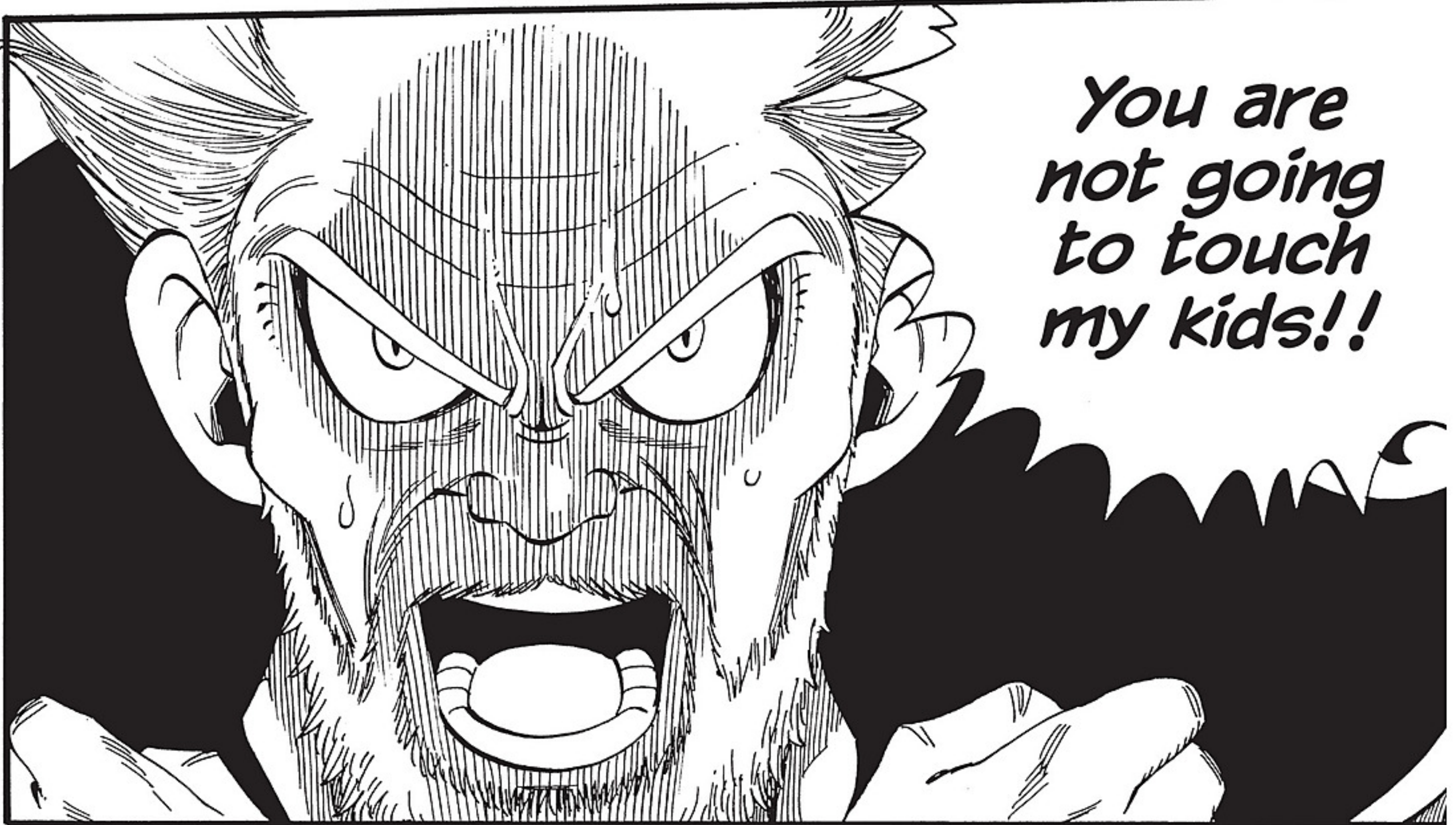
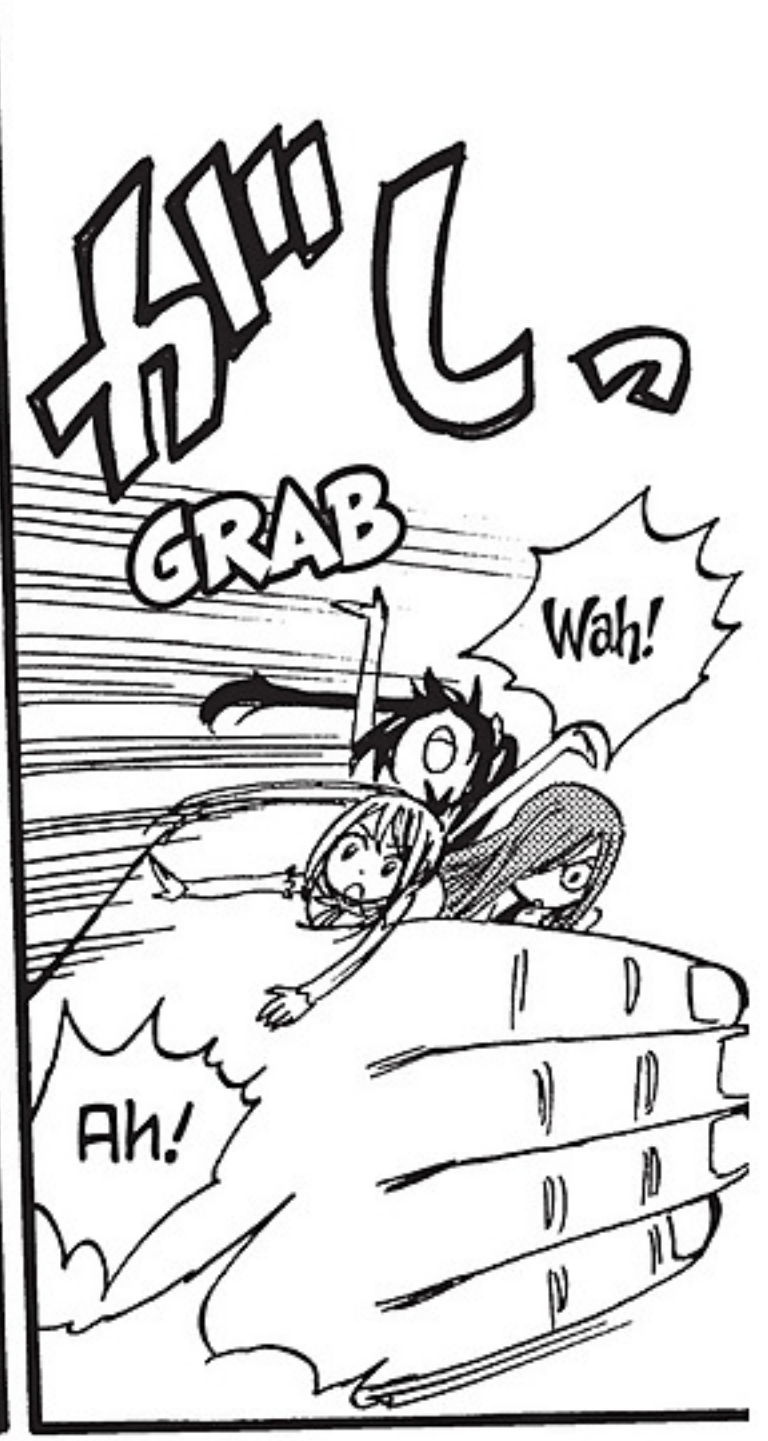
Gwaah!!



Whoa!!



Whoops!



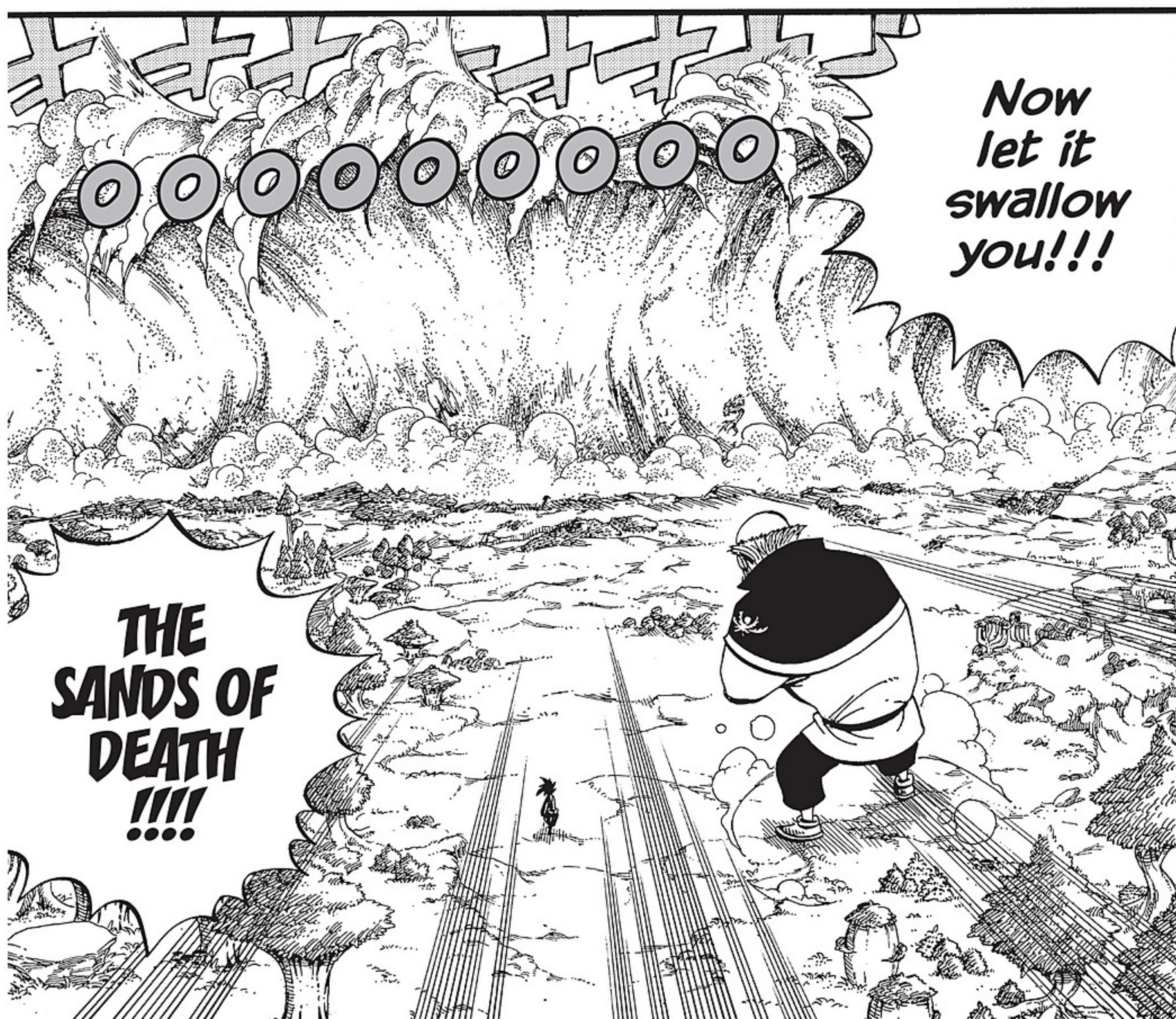
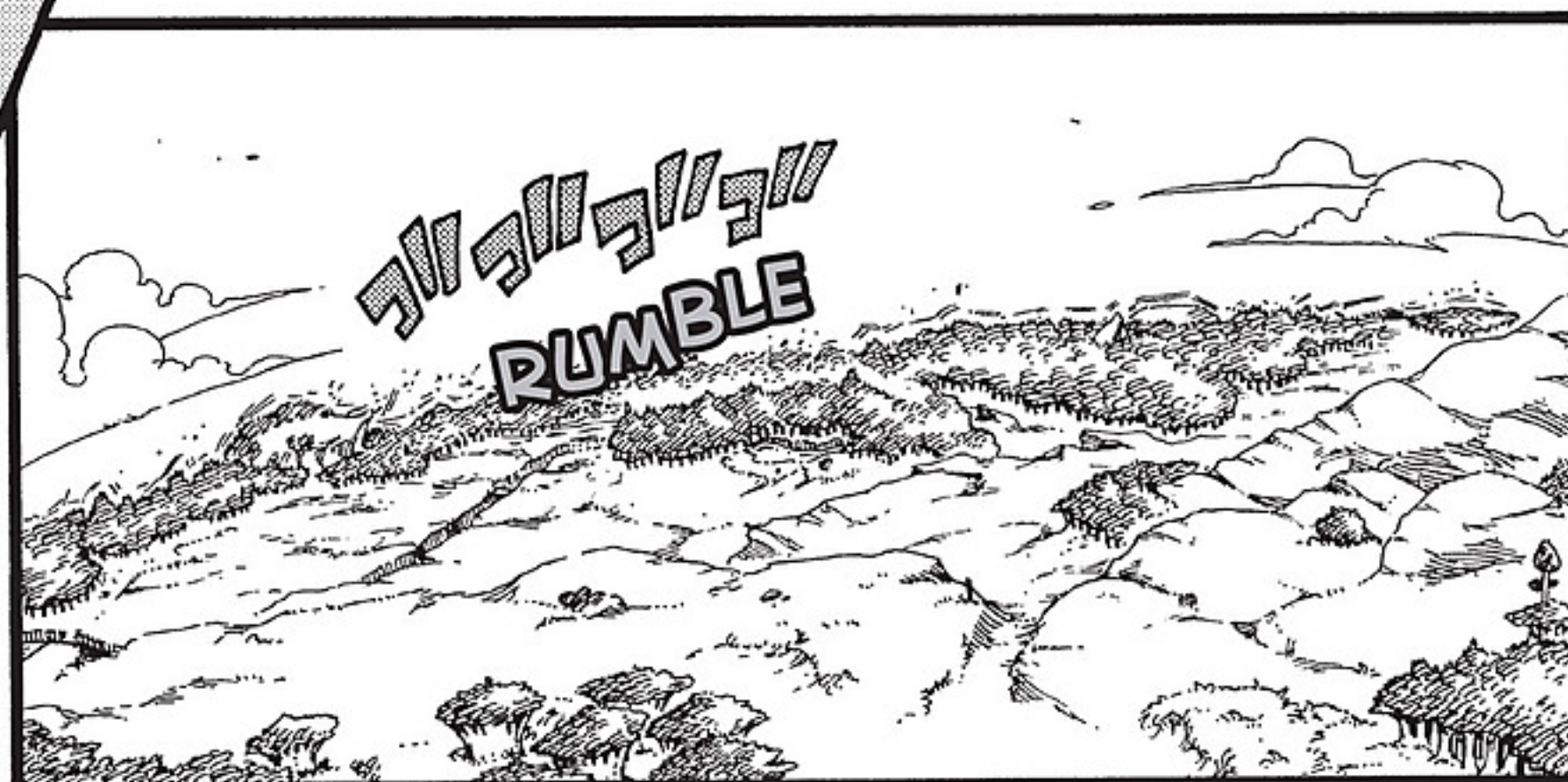
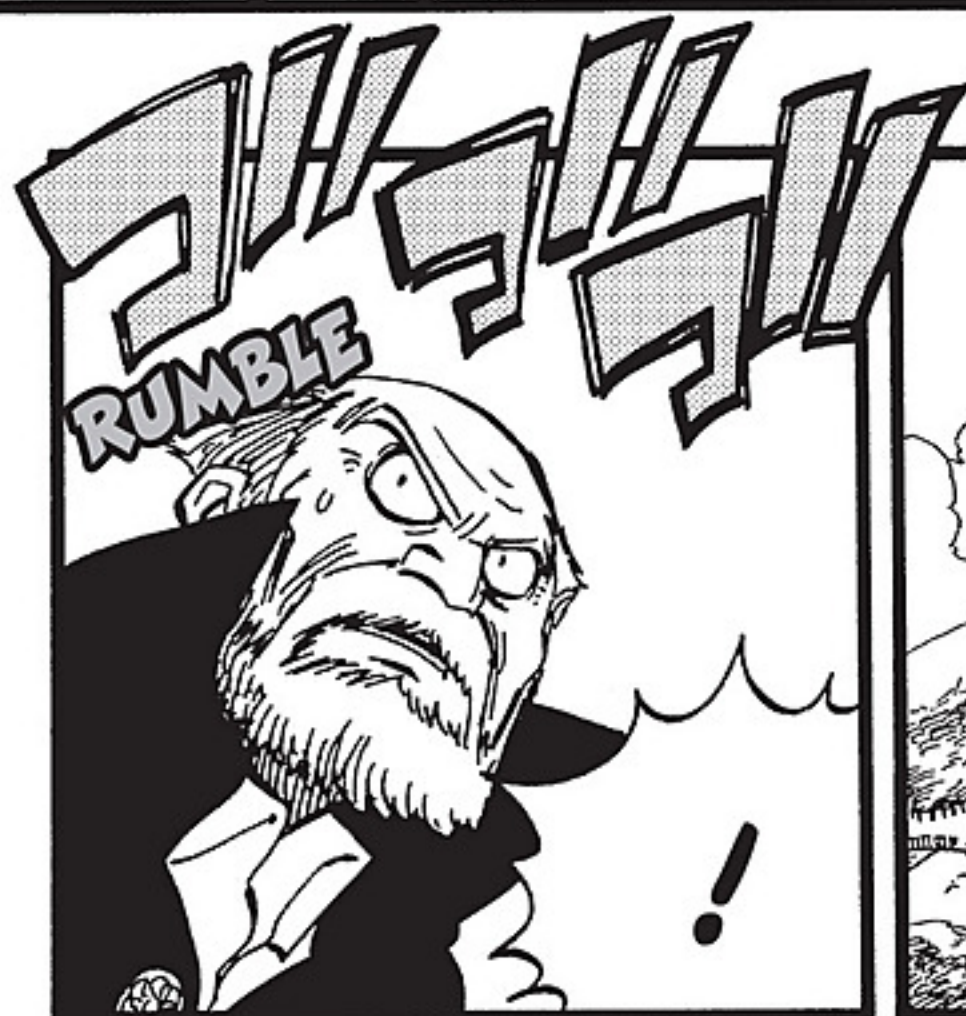


...the
power of
Spriggan
12!

You
fail to
see...

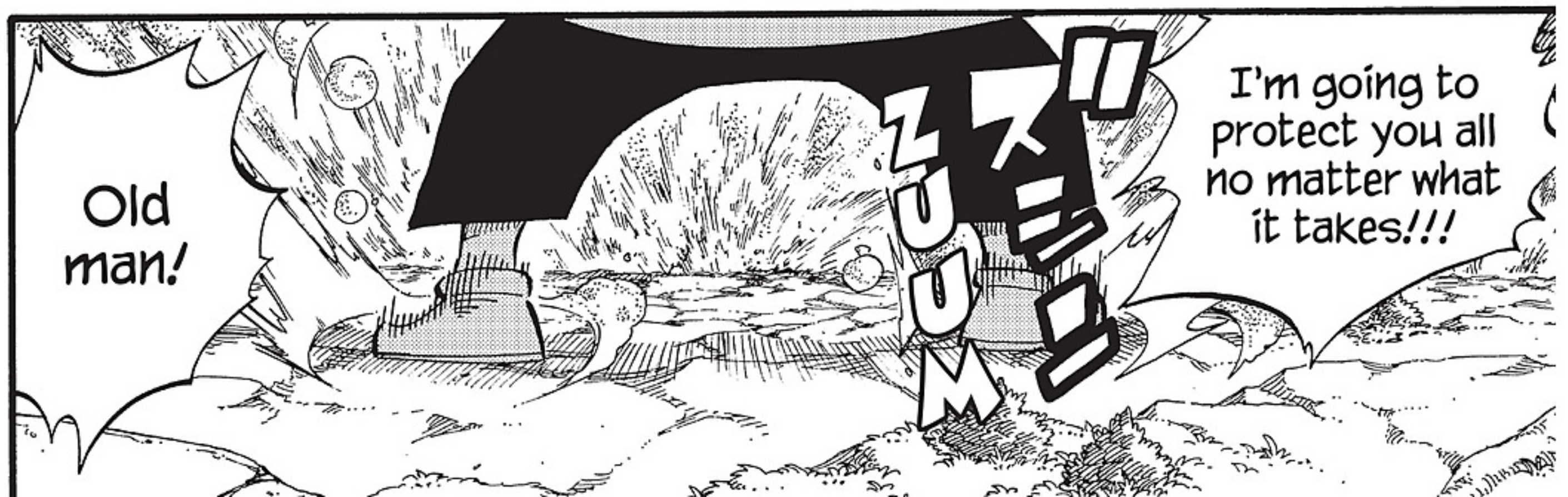
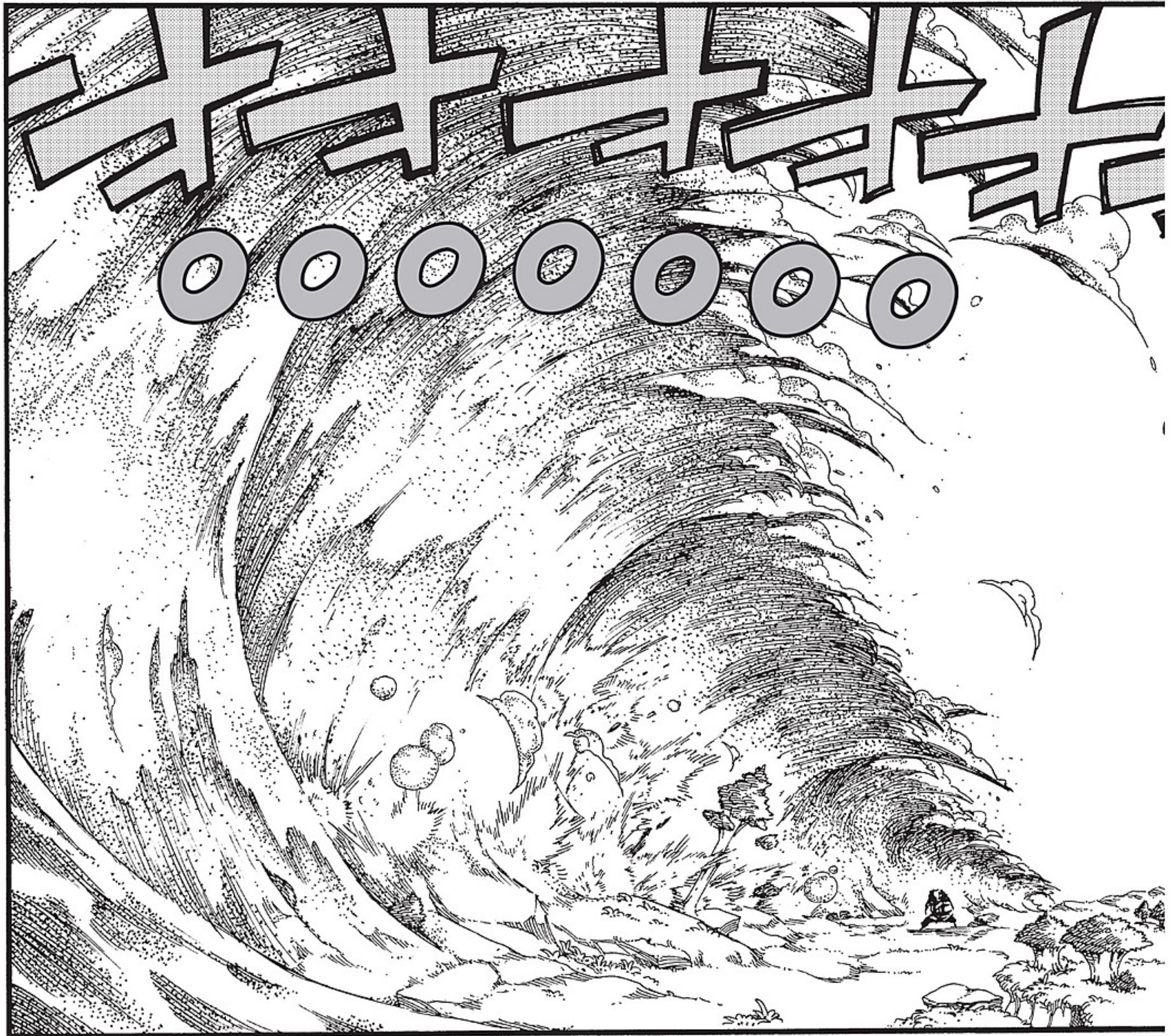
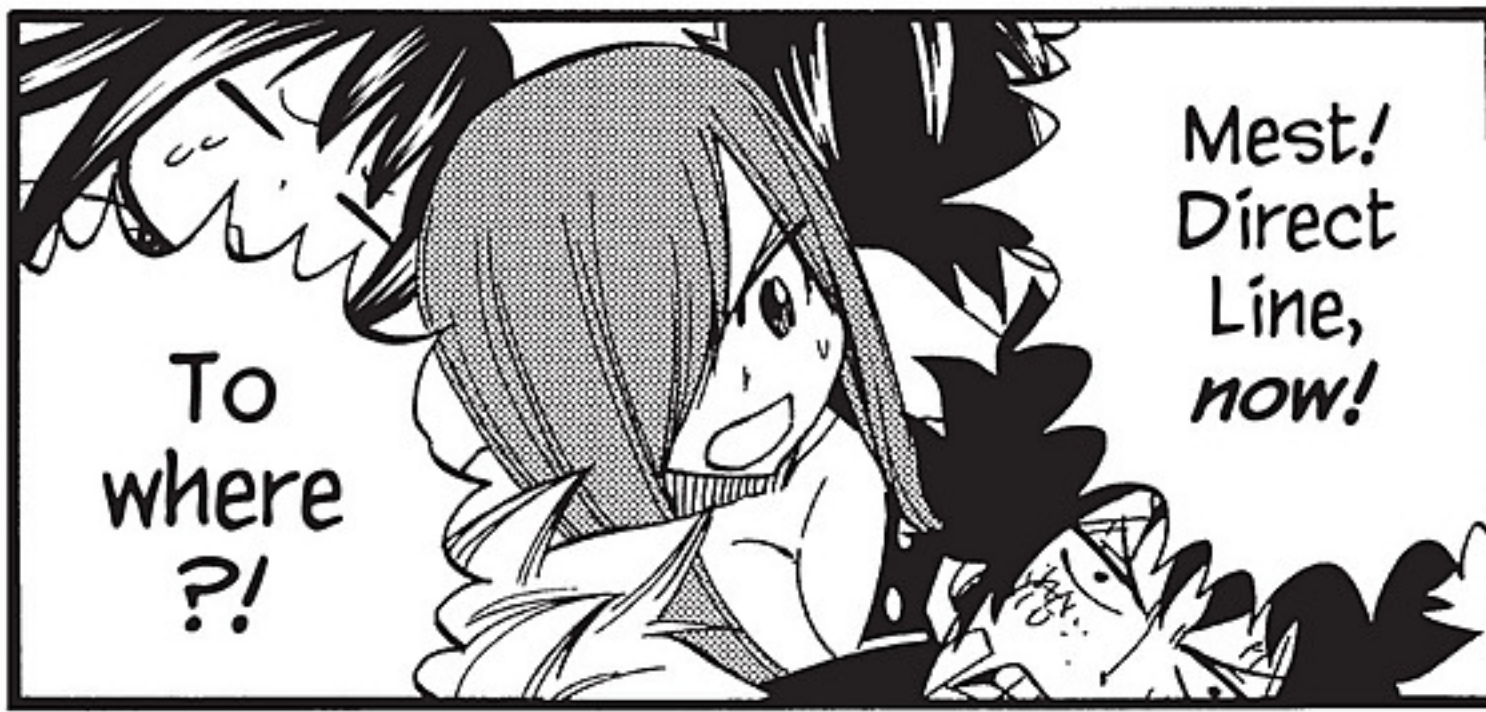


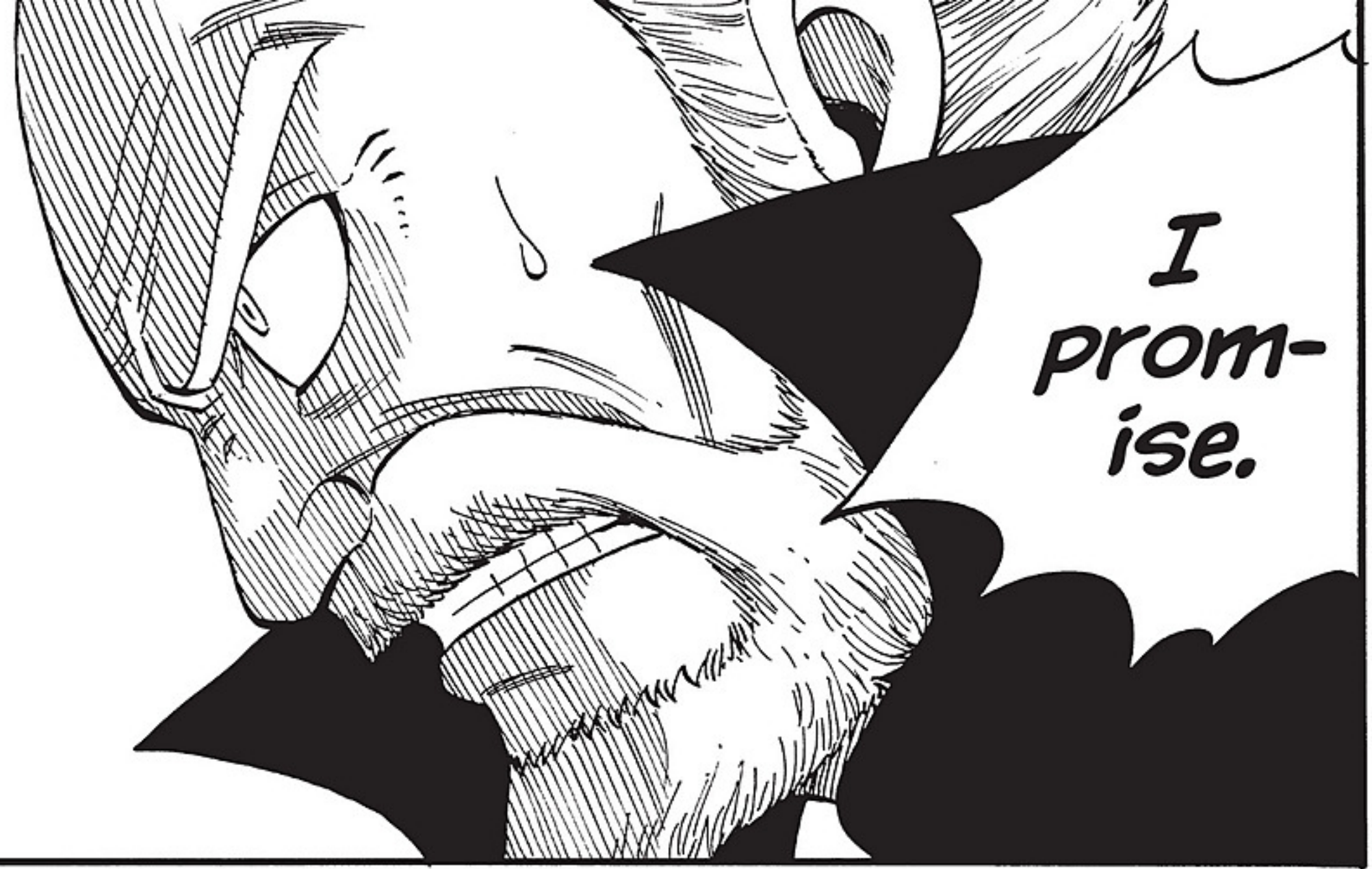
Really?
You think
you can
protect
them all?



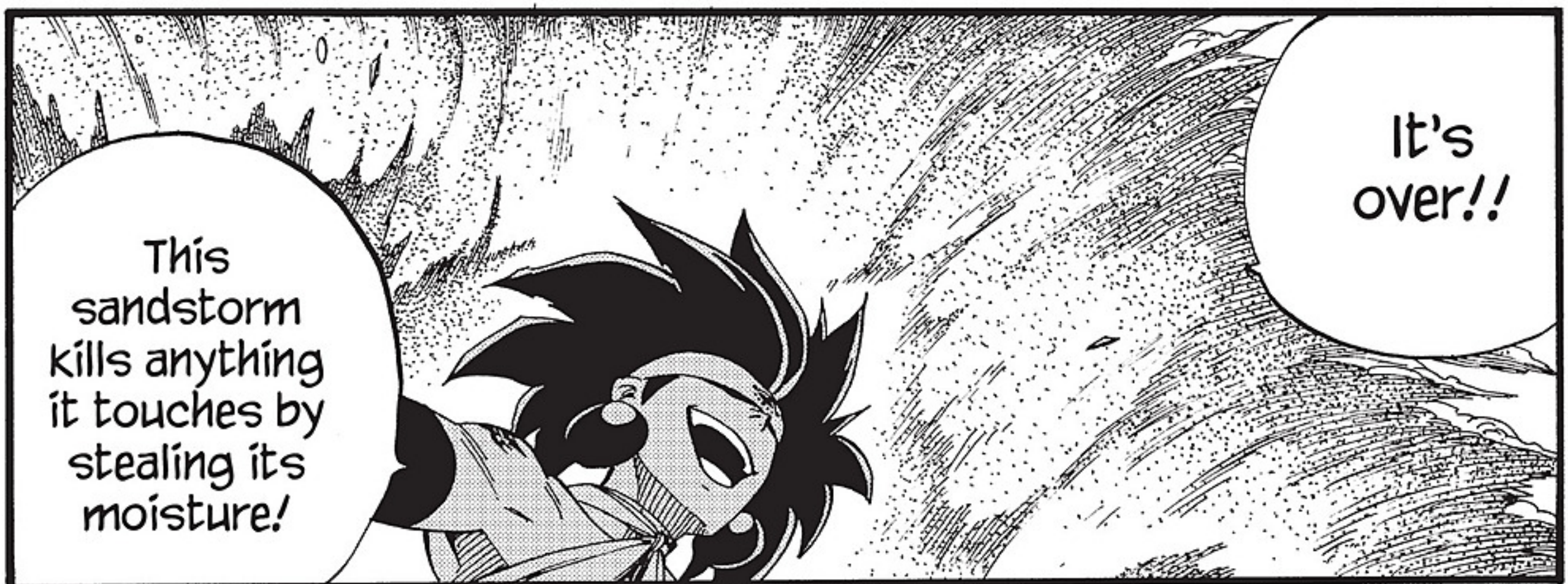
**THE
SANDS OF
DEATH
!!!**

*Now
let it
swallow
you!!!*





*I
prom-
ise.*



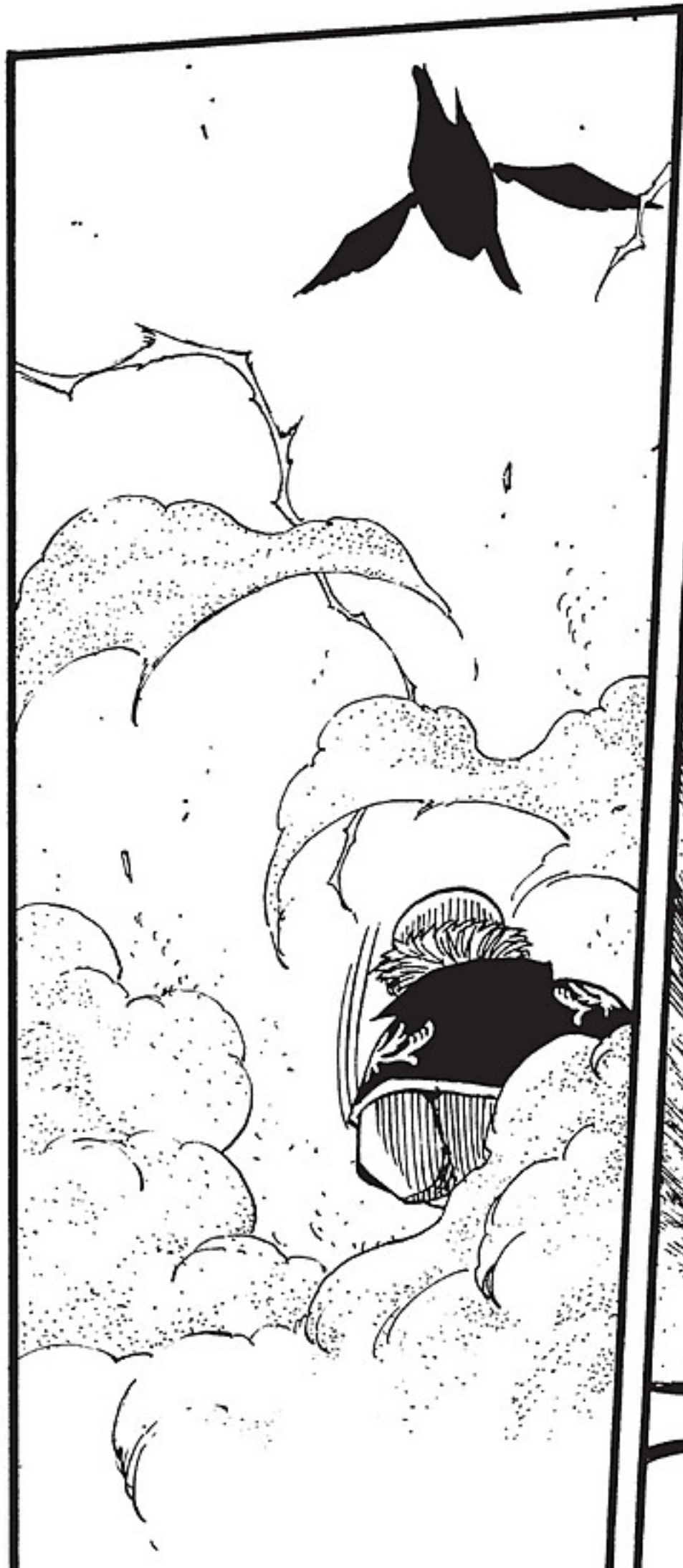
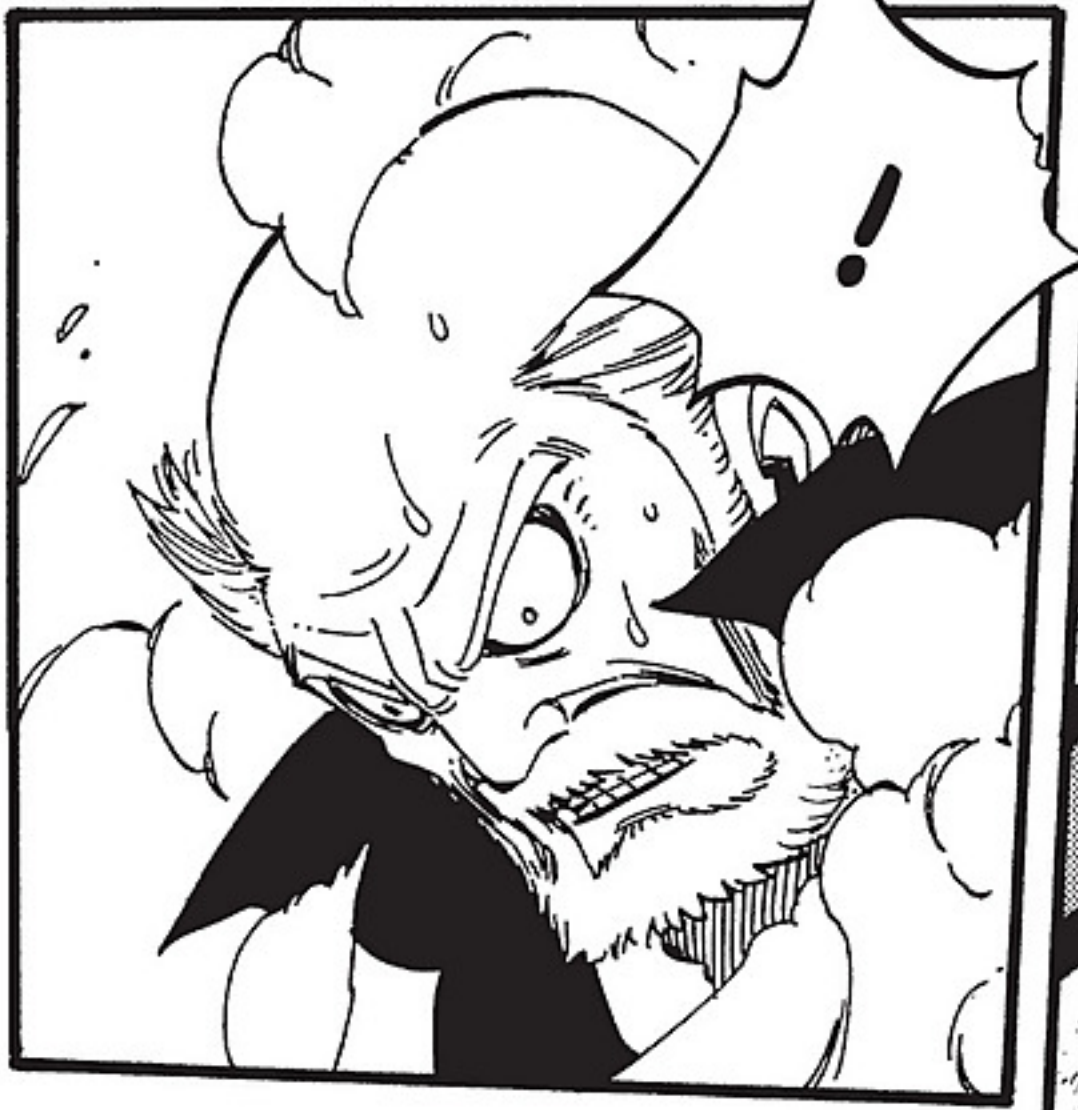
This
sandstorm
kills anything
it touches by
stealing its
moisture!

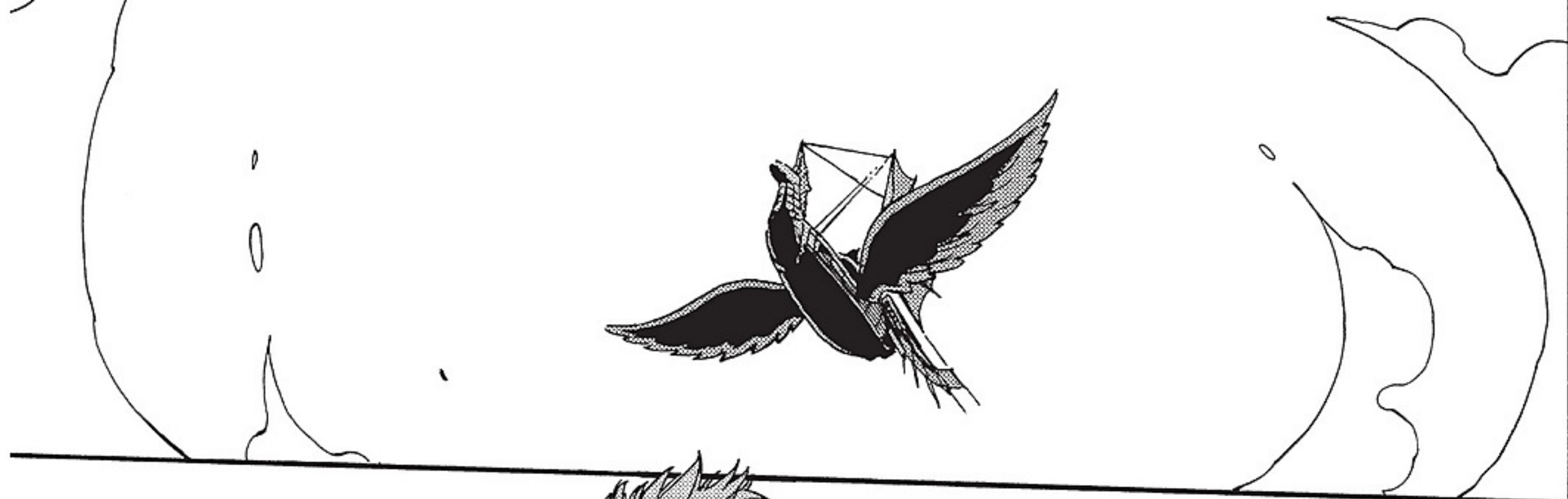
It's
over!!

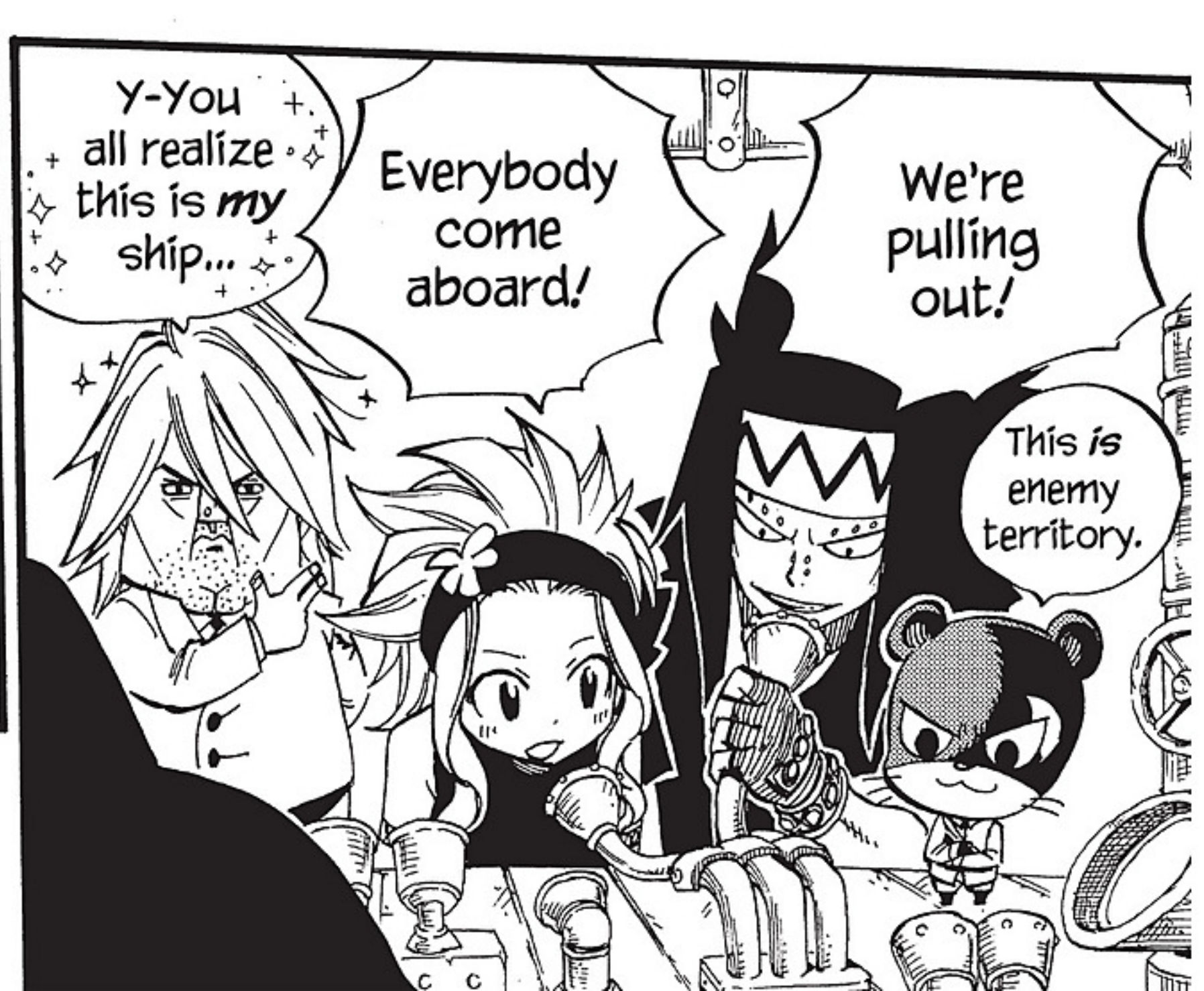
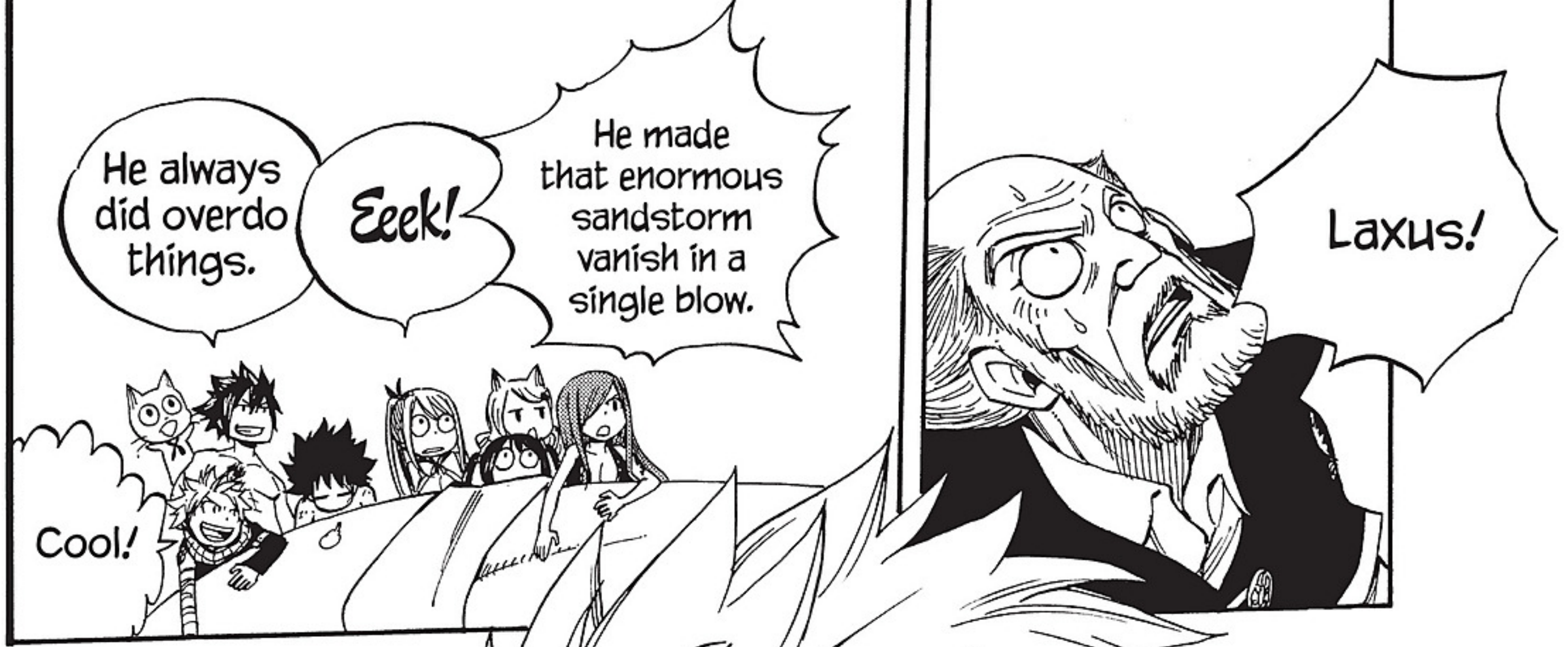


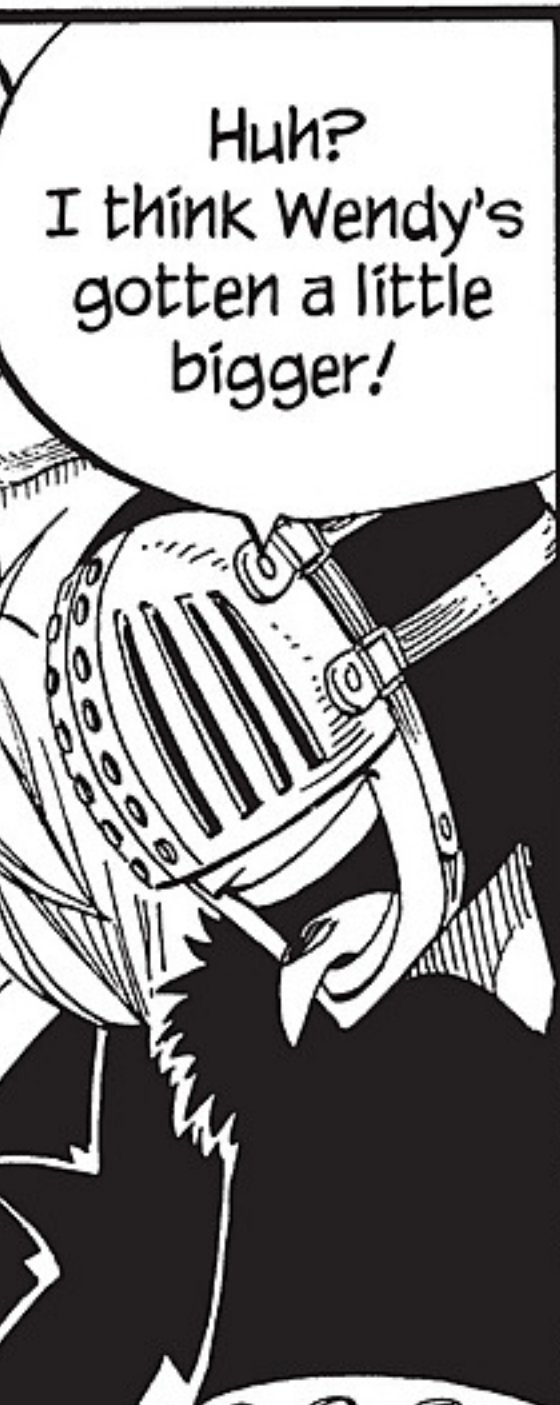
Here come
some fairy
mummies!

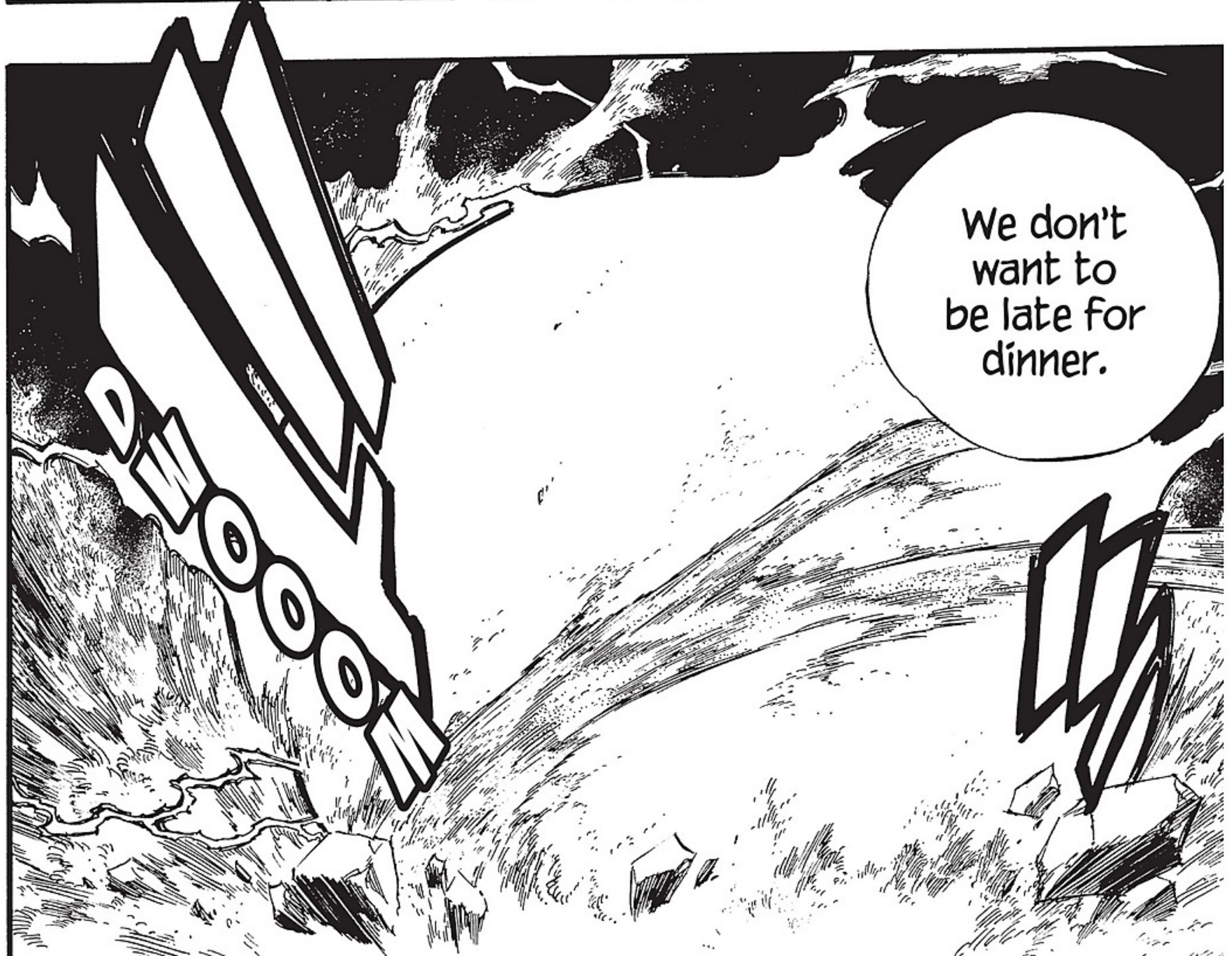
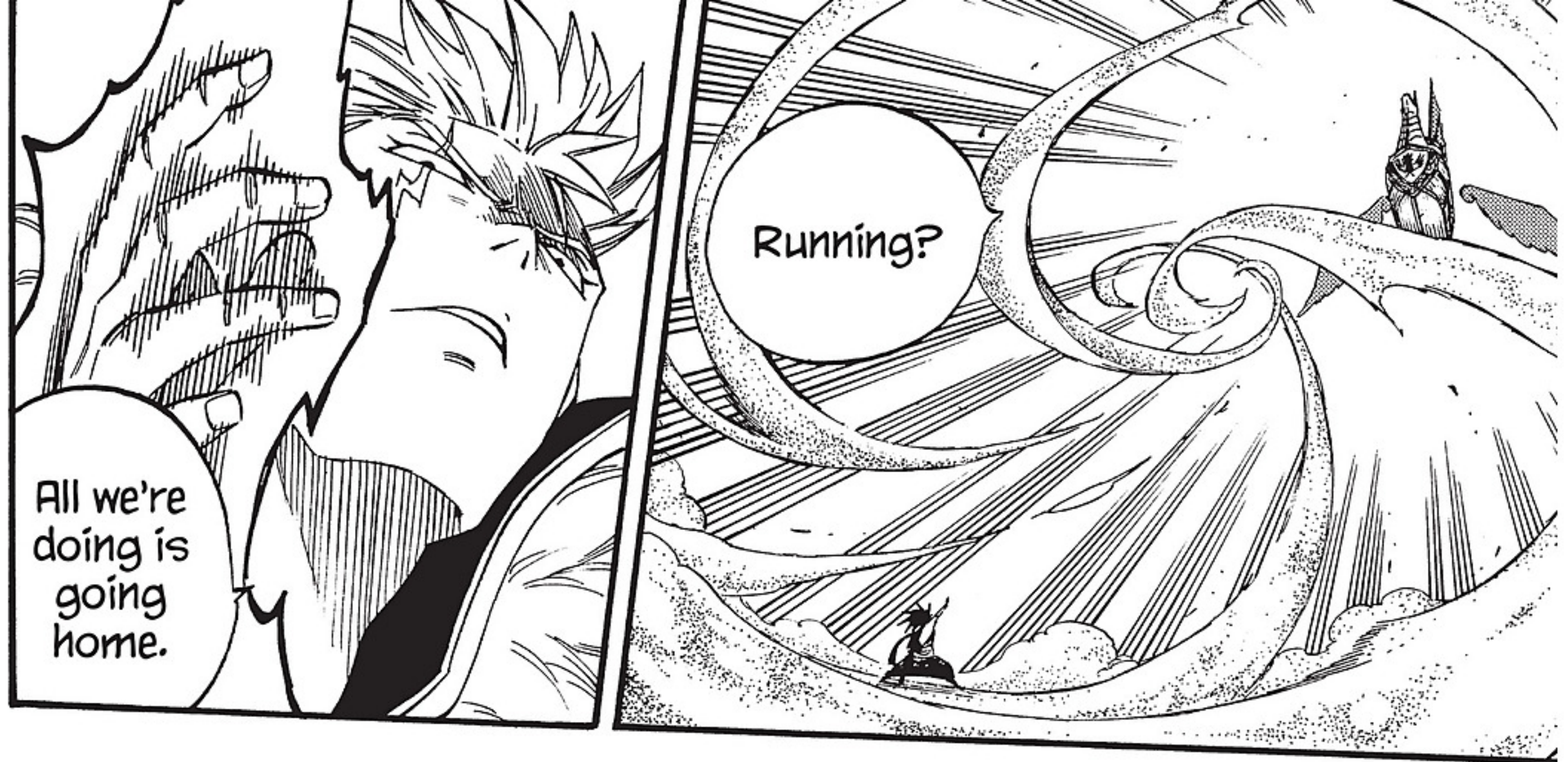


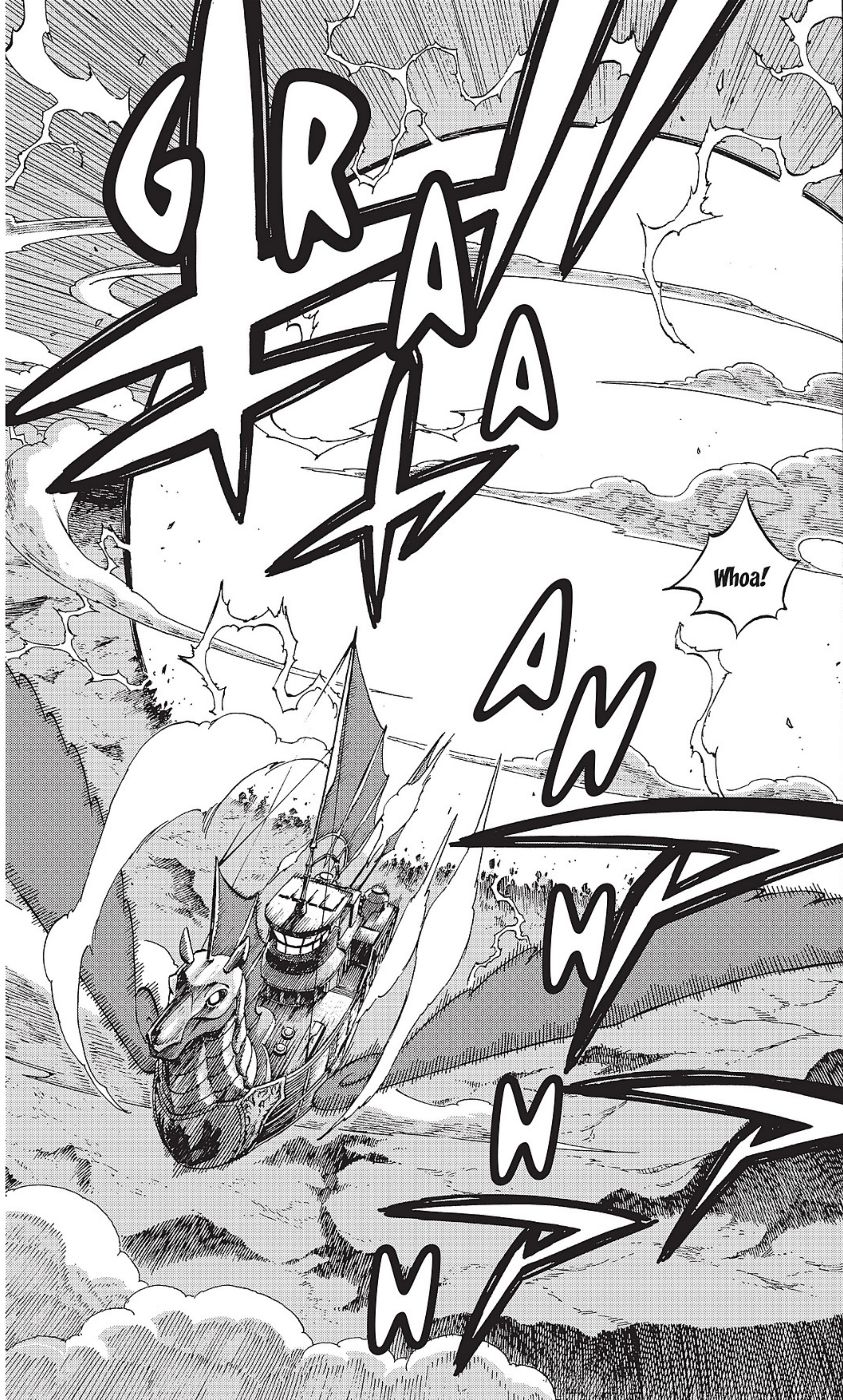












GRAN

Whoa!

AN

W

W

W



So that barrier was yours?



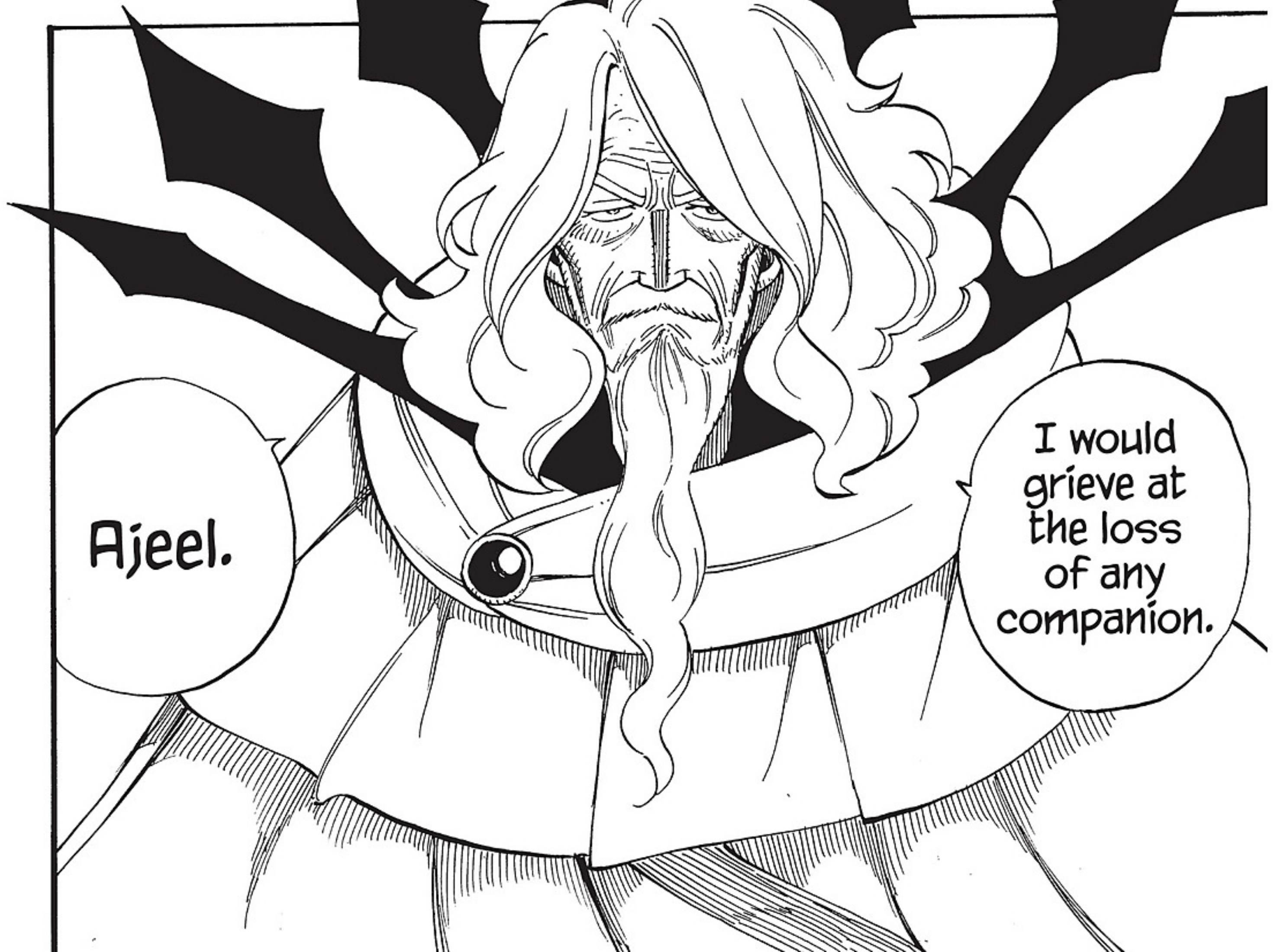
!



Are those guys for real?!

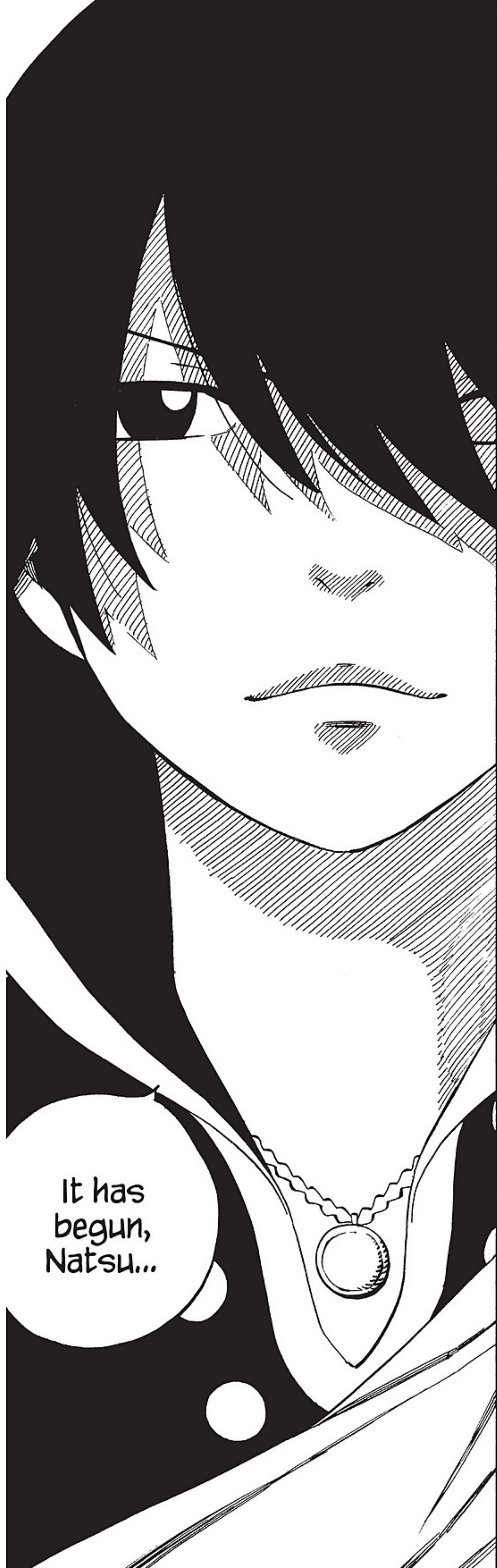


That was a surprise...



Ajeel.

I would grieve at the loss of any companion.

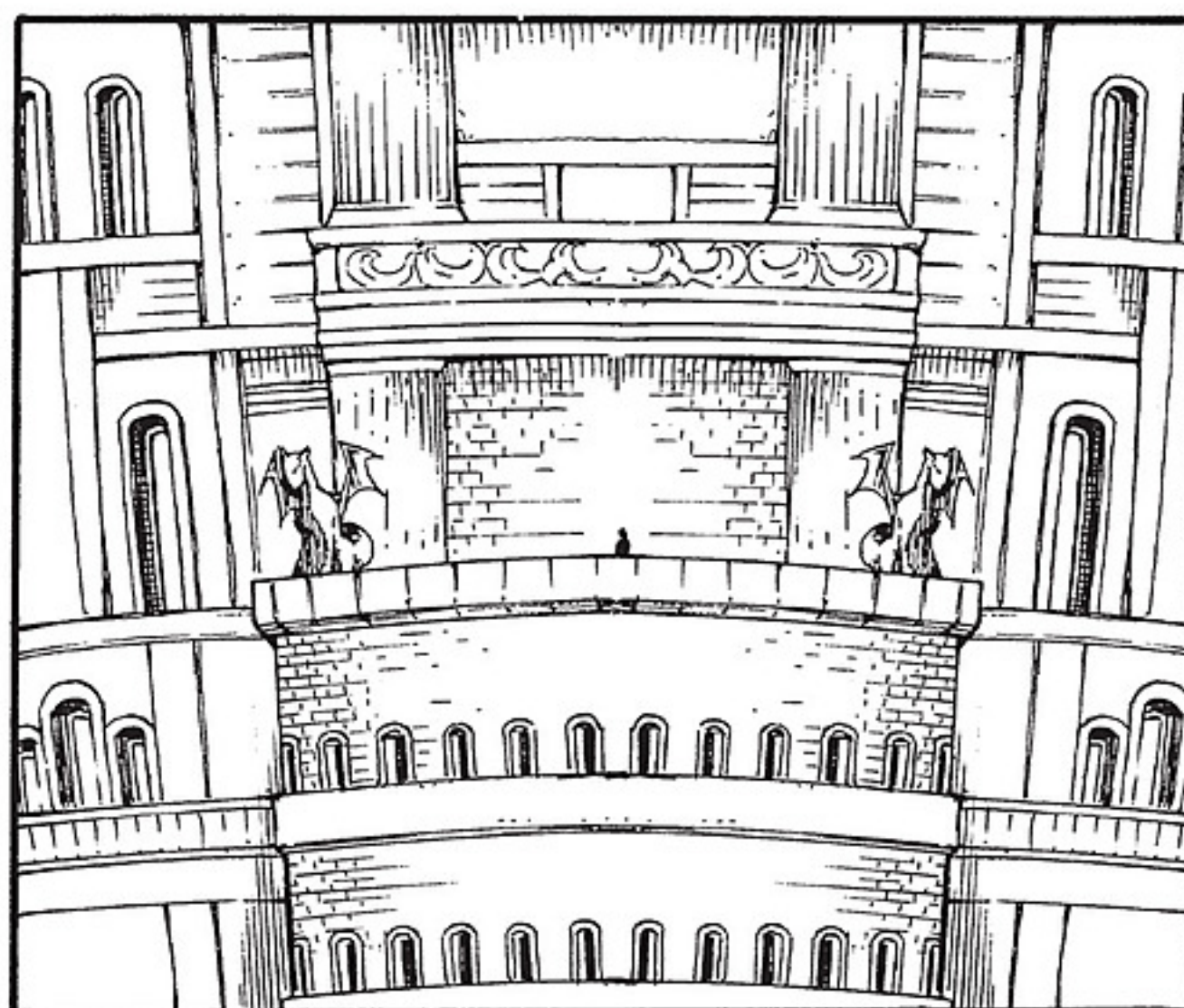
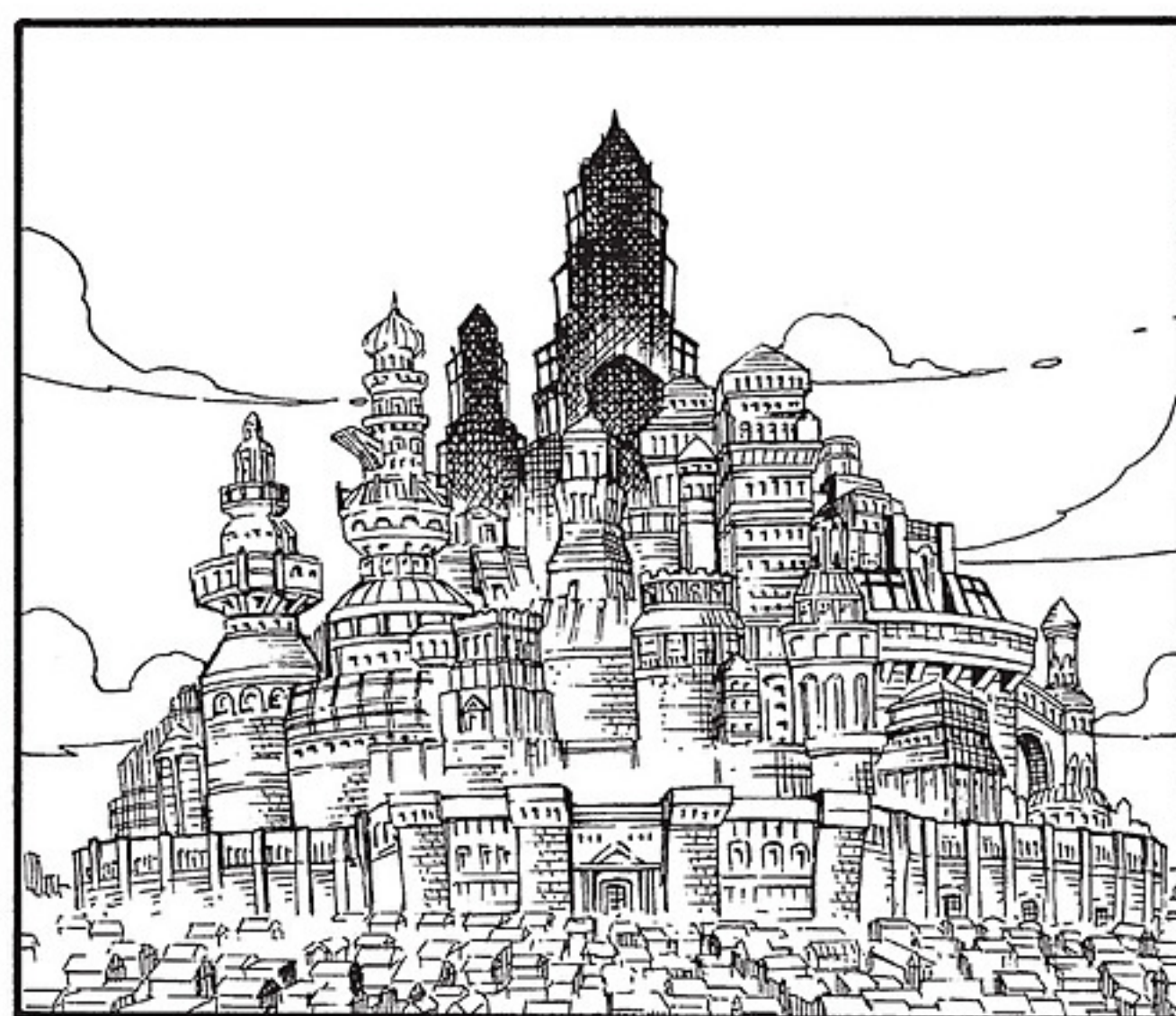


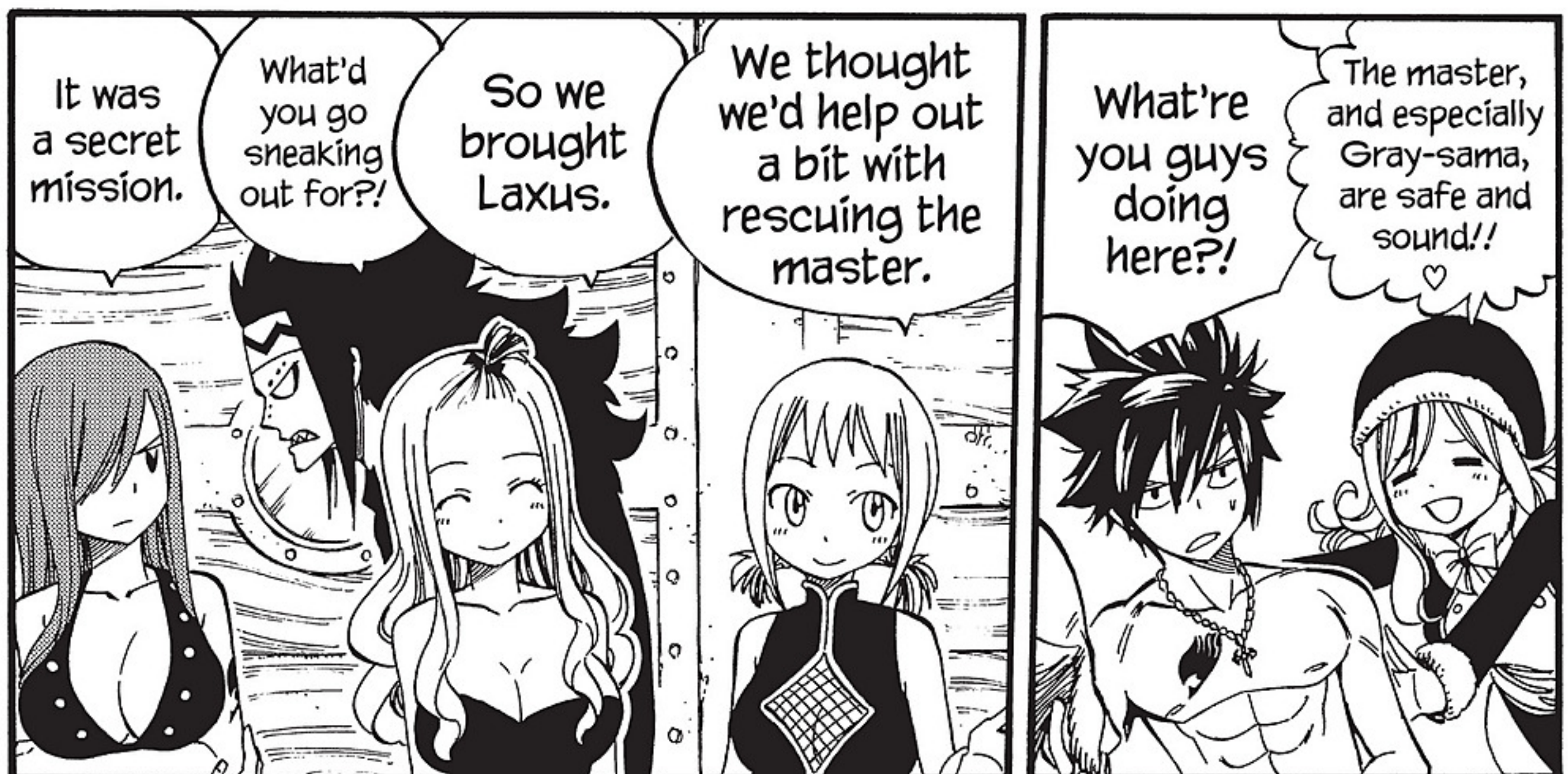
It has
begun,
Natsu...

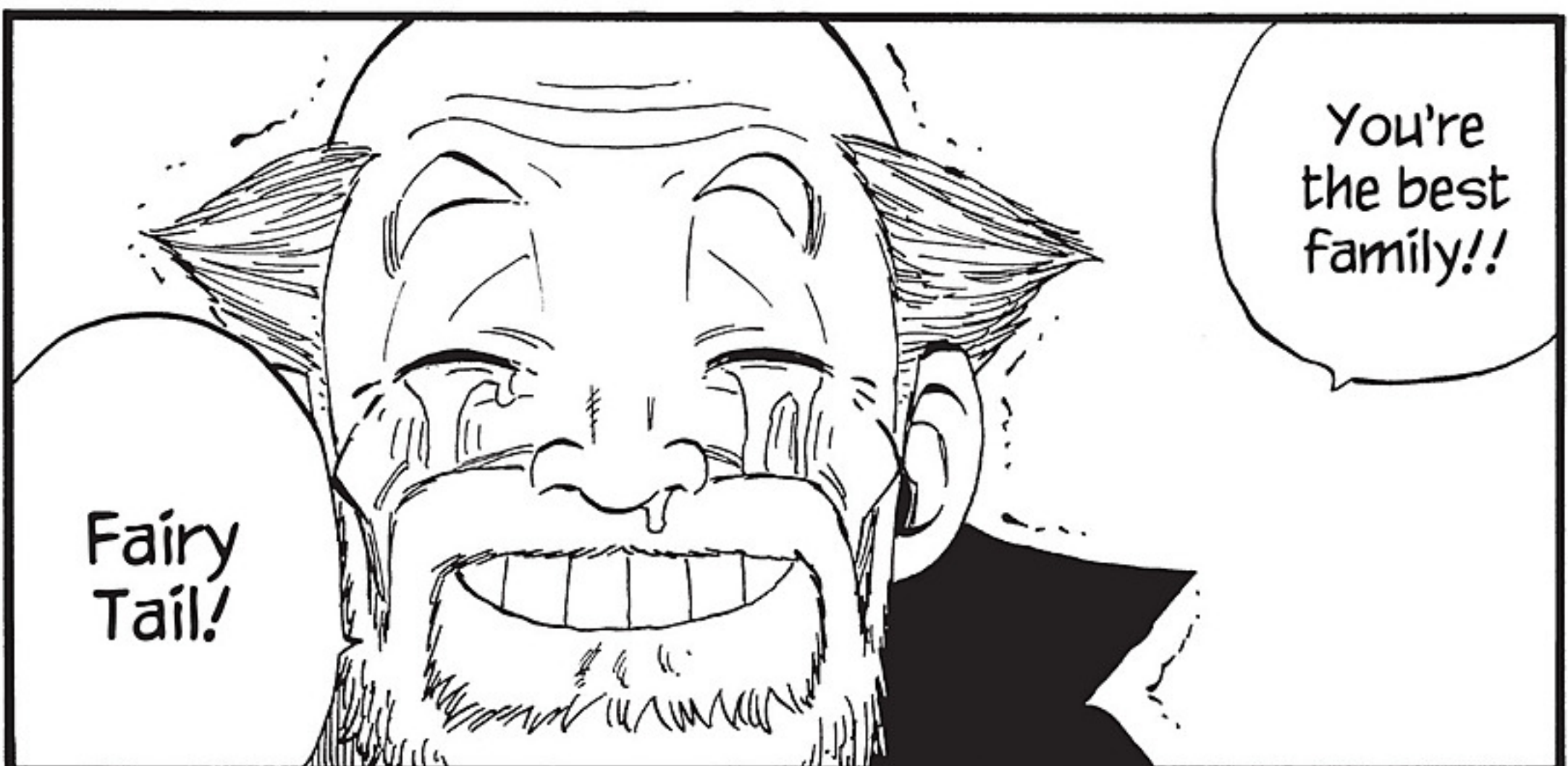
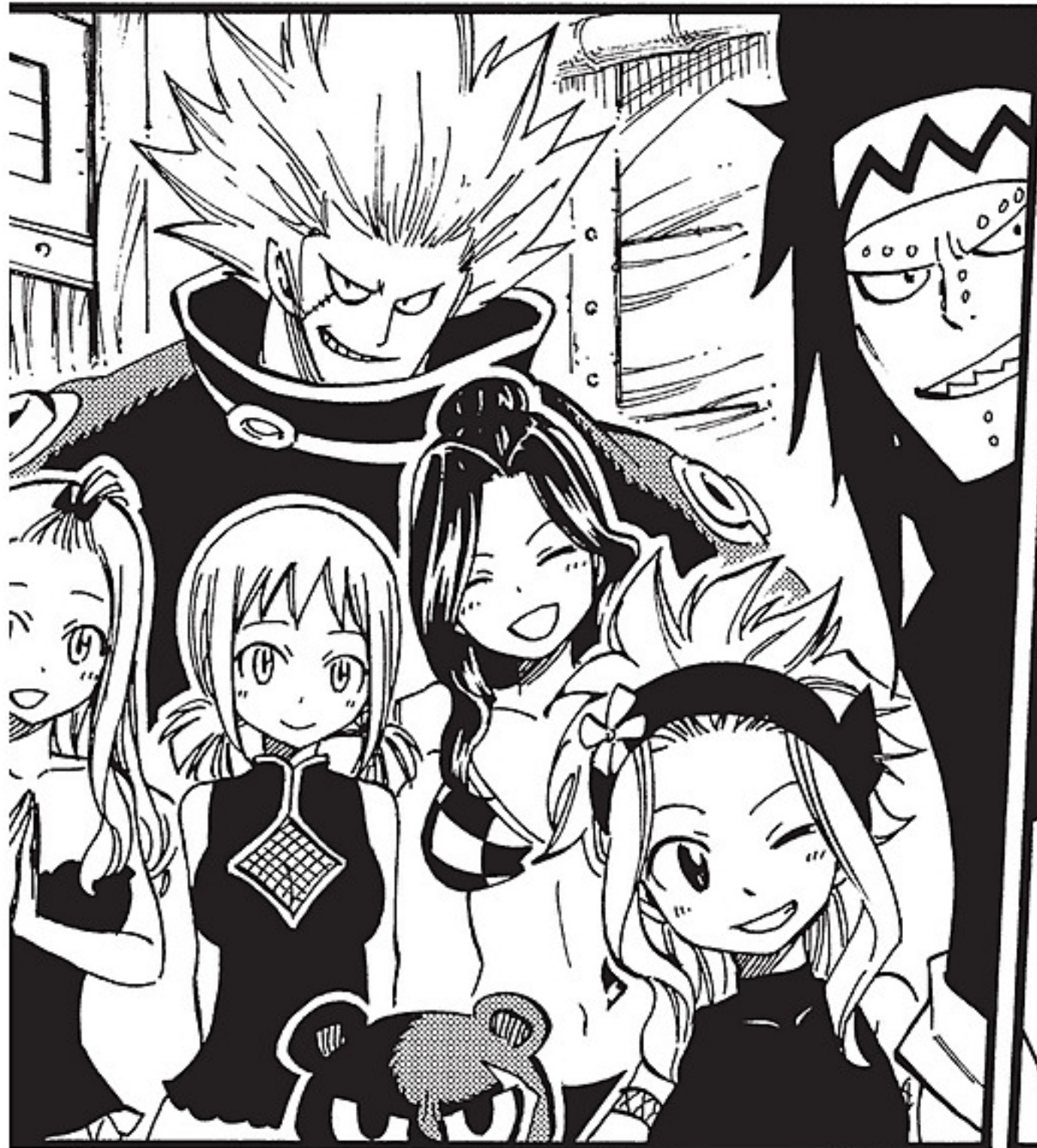
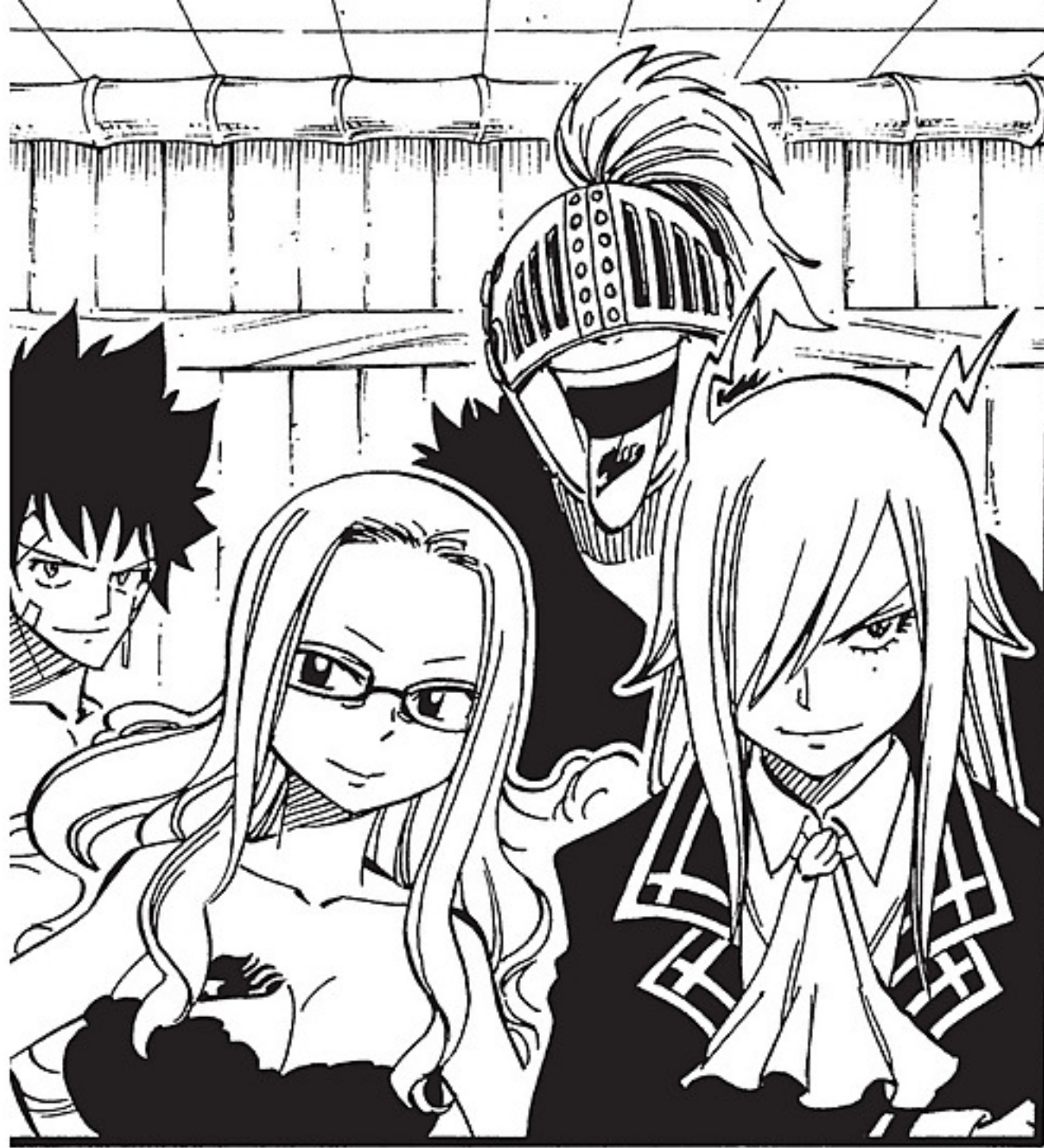


Yer
sayin' that
last attack
woulda done
me in?

I think
yer goin'
senile,
August.









 FAIRYTAIL

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 448: Fight the Power!





Now, in
celebration
of Fairy
Tail's official
return...

**Cheers
!!!!**

**Cheers
!!!!**

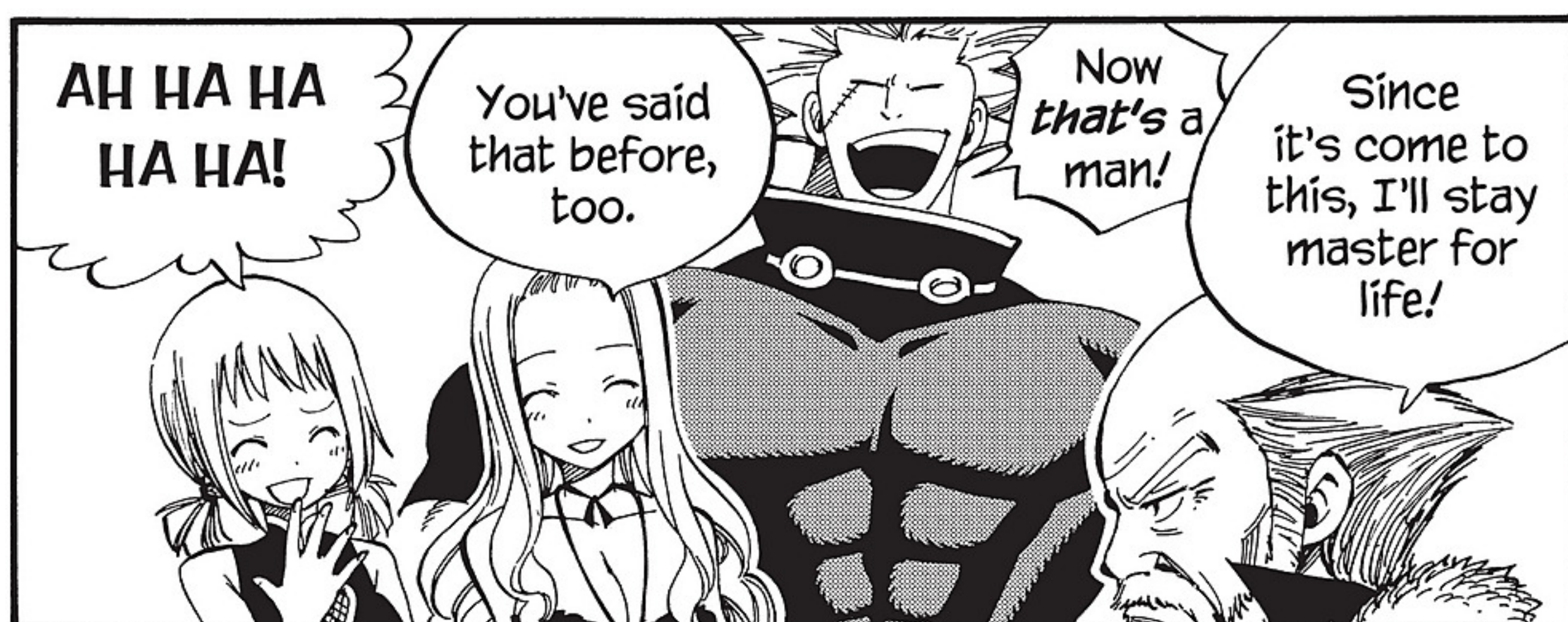
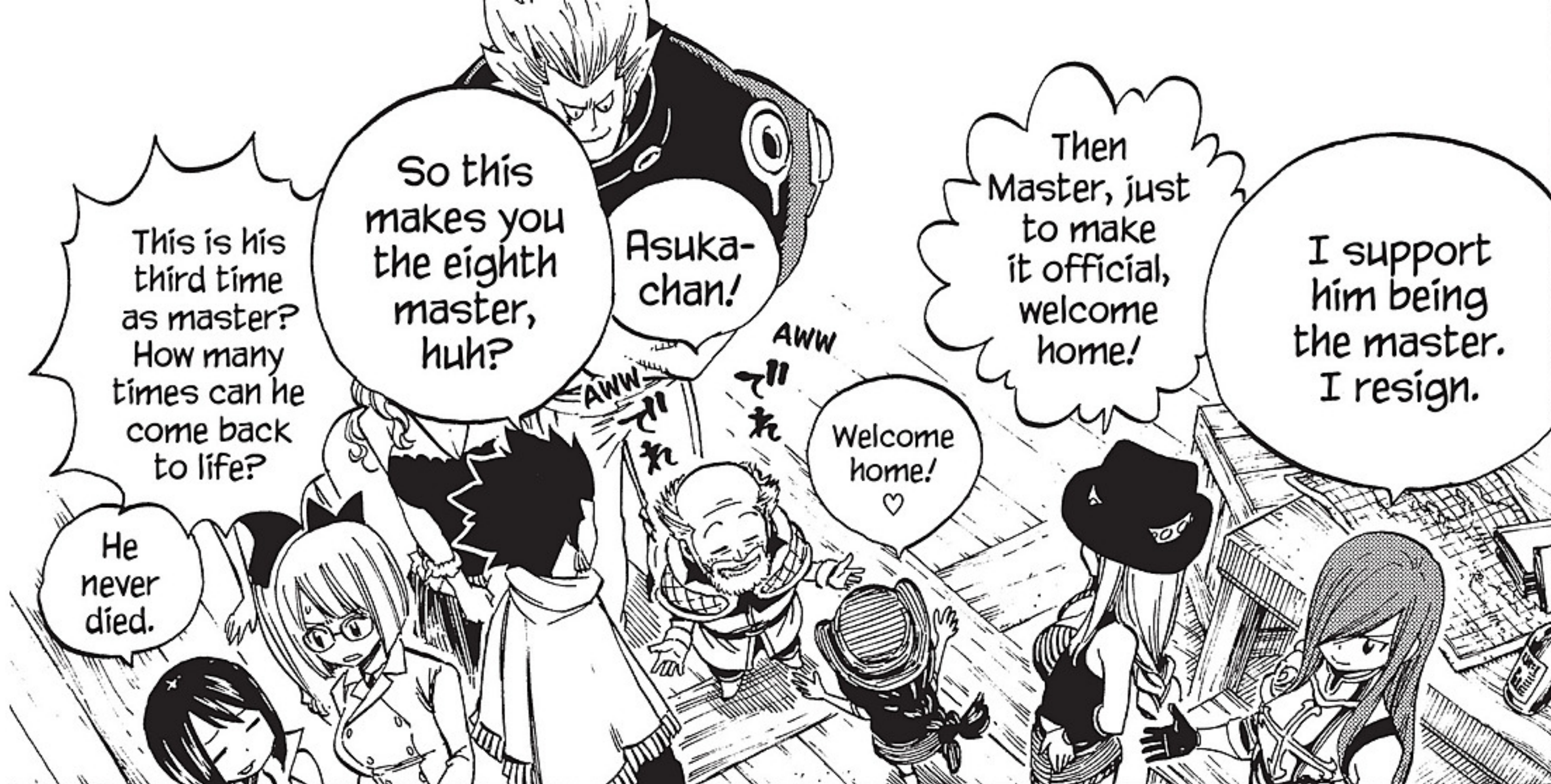
CLANK

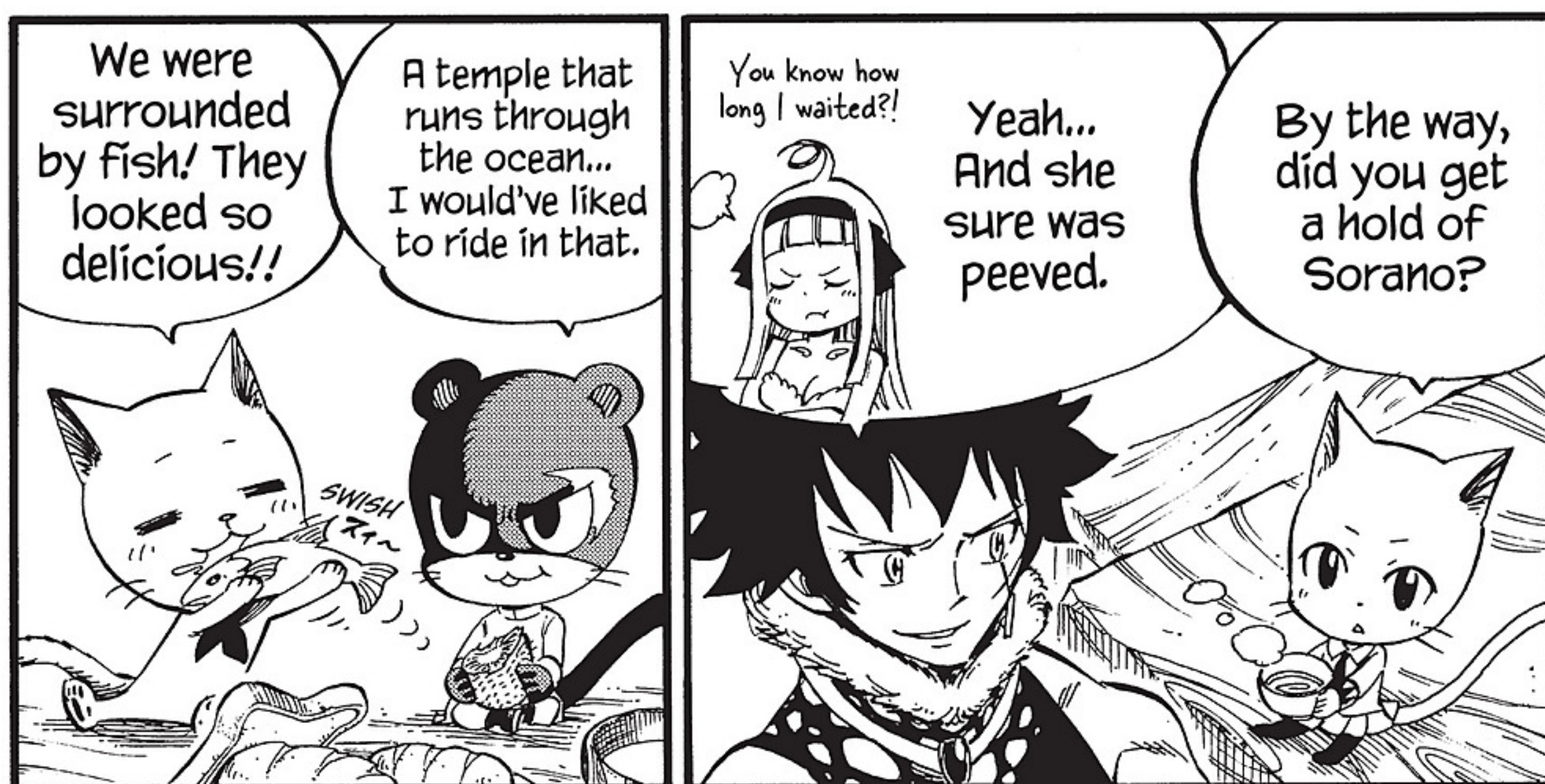
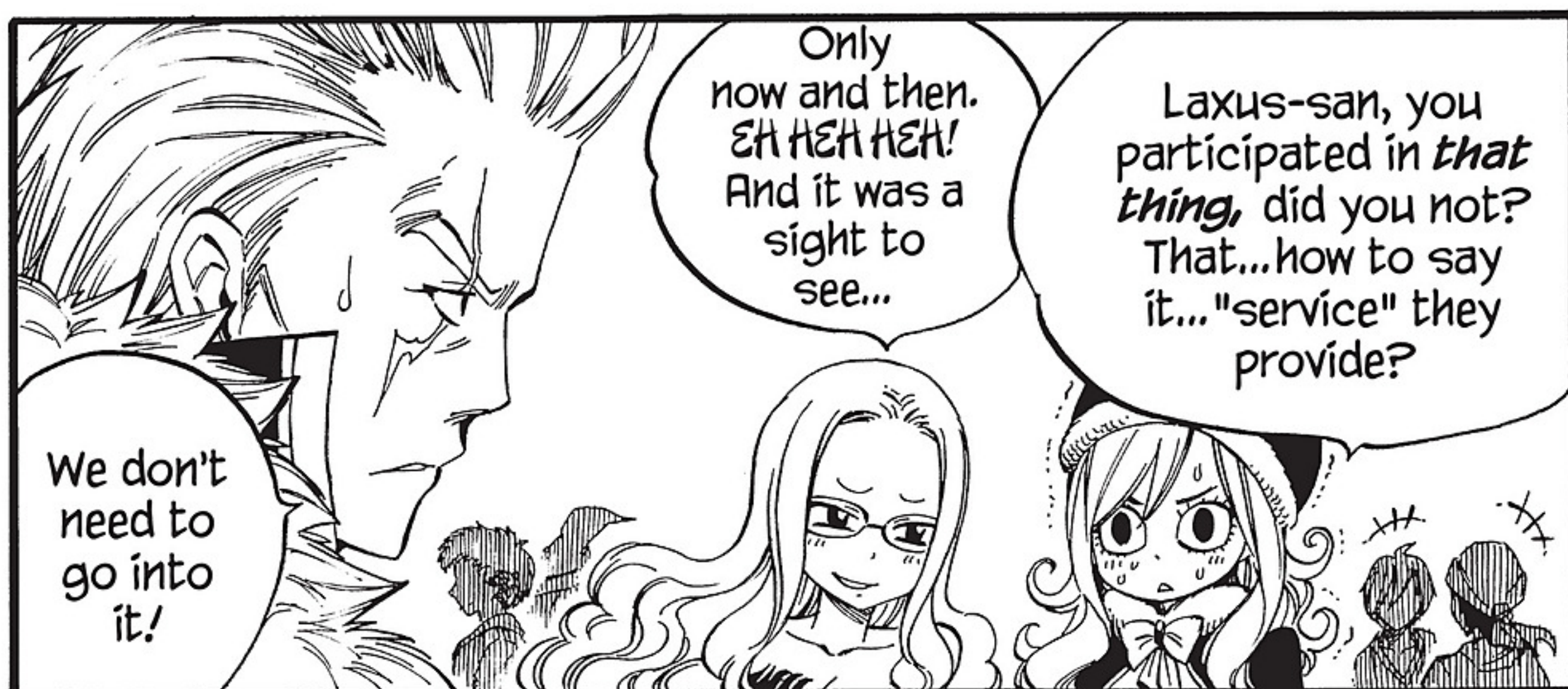
That
doesn't
sound
right...

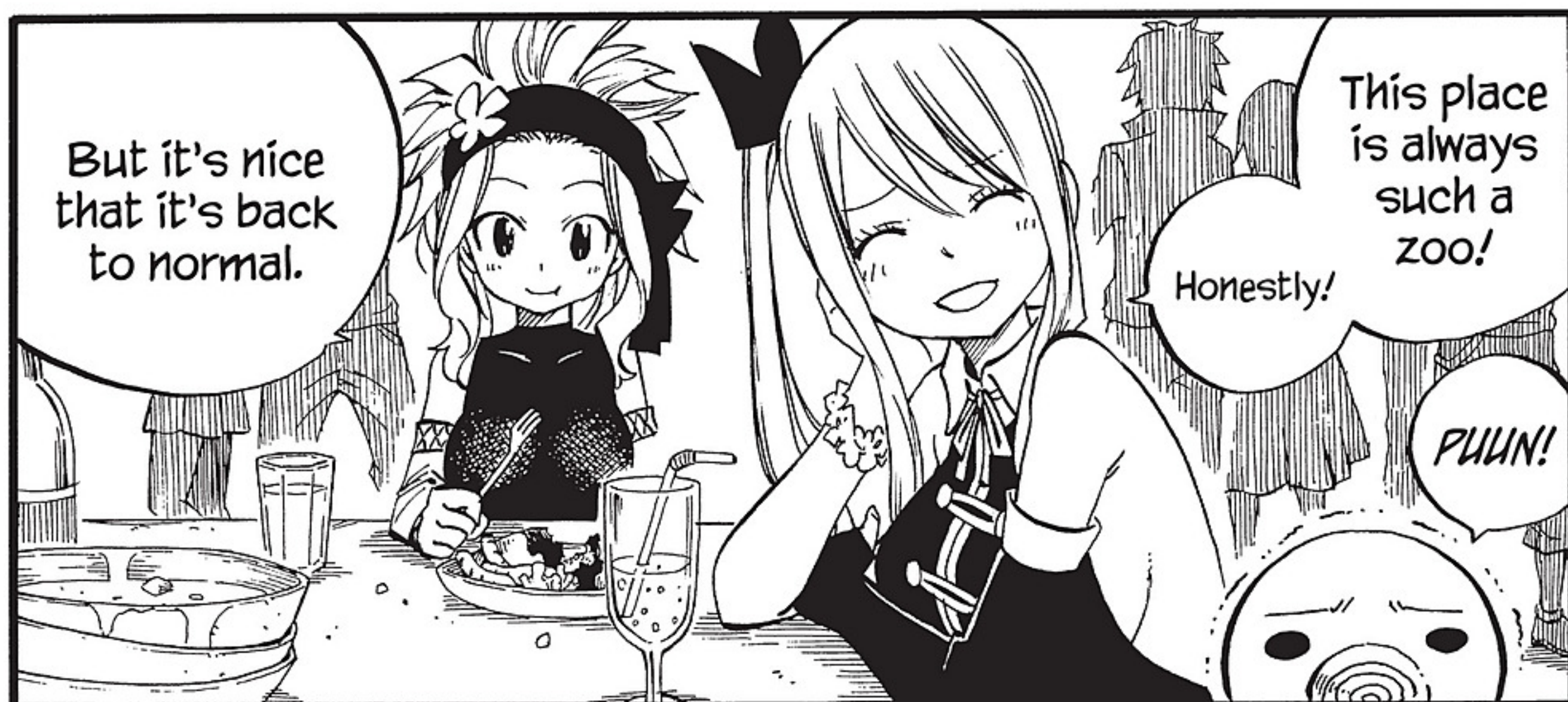
Makarov-
san!

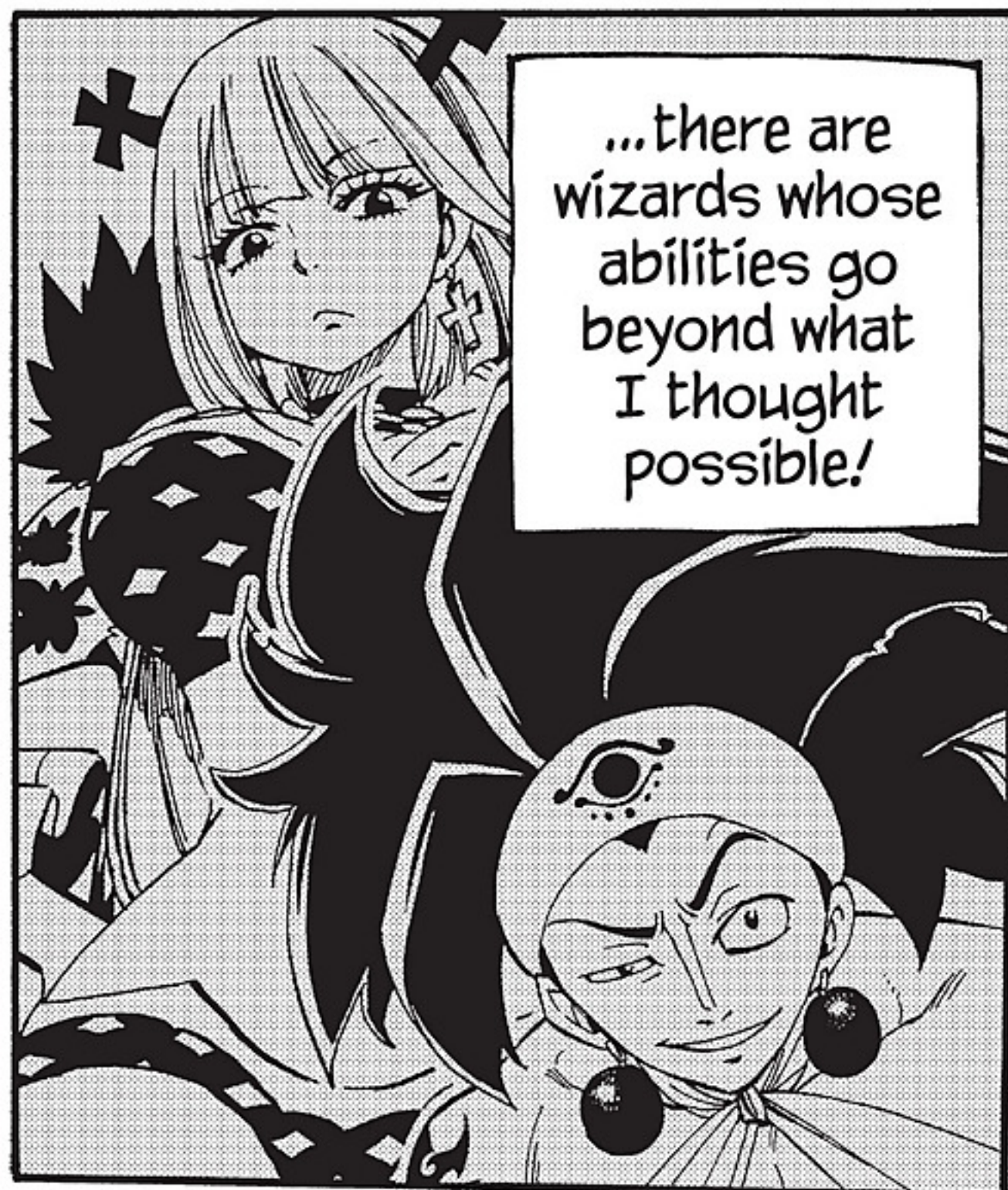
Welcome
back,
Master!

Huh?
Erza's the
master now,
so...





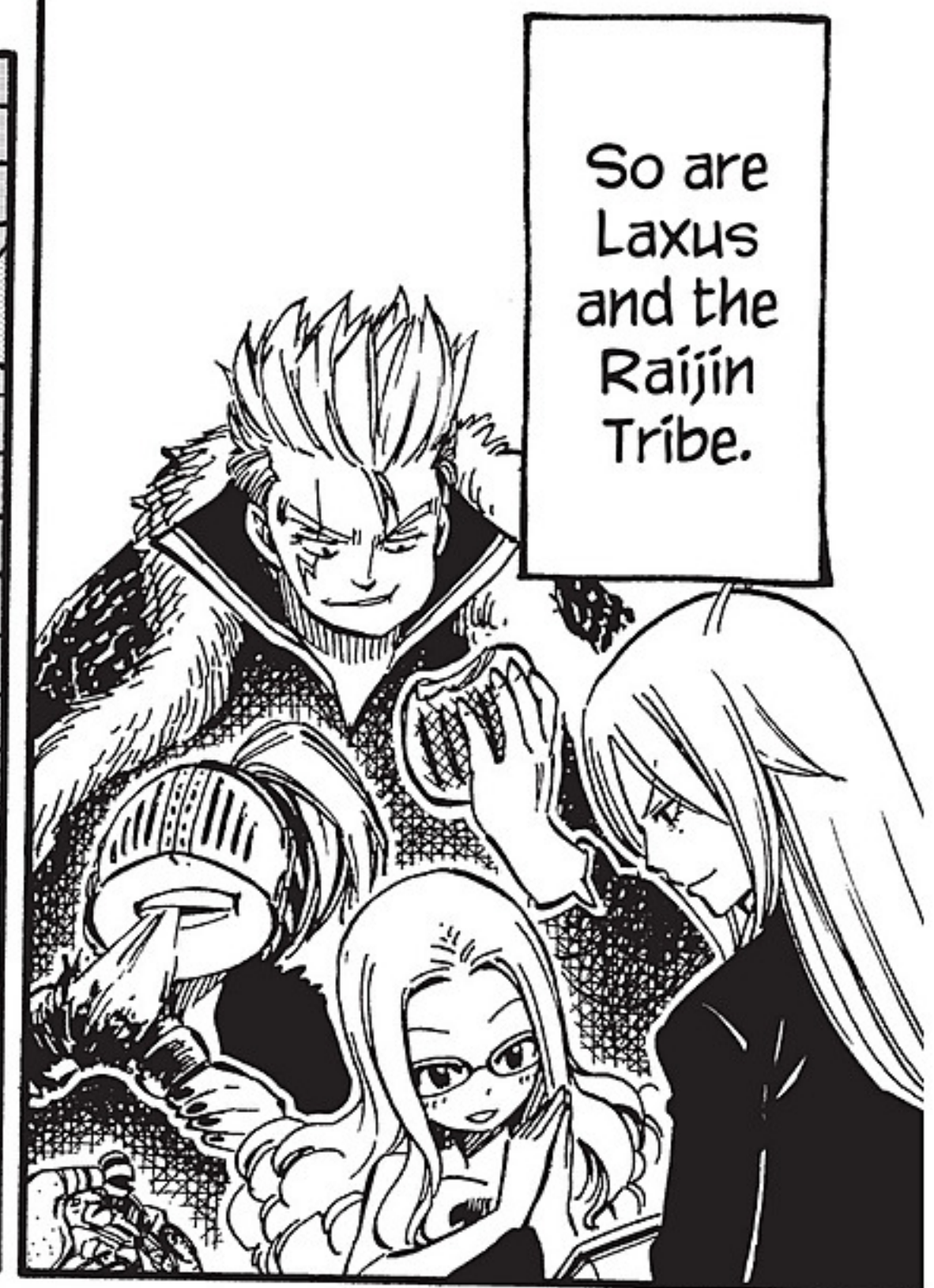




...there are
wizards whose
abilities go
beyond what
I thought
possible!



In the
Alvarez
Empire
on the
western
conti-
nent...



So are
Lexus
and the
Raijin
Tribe.



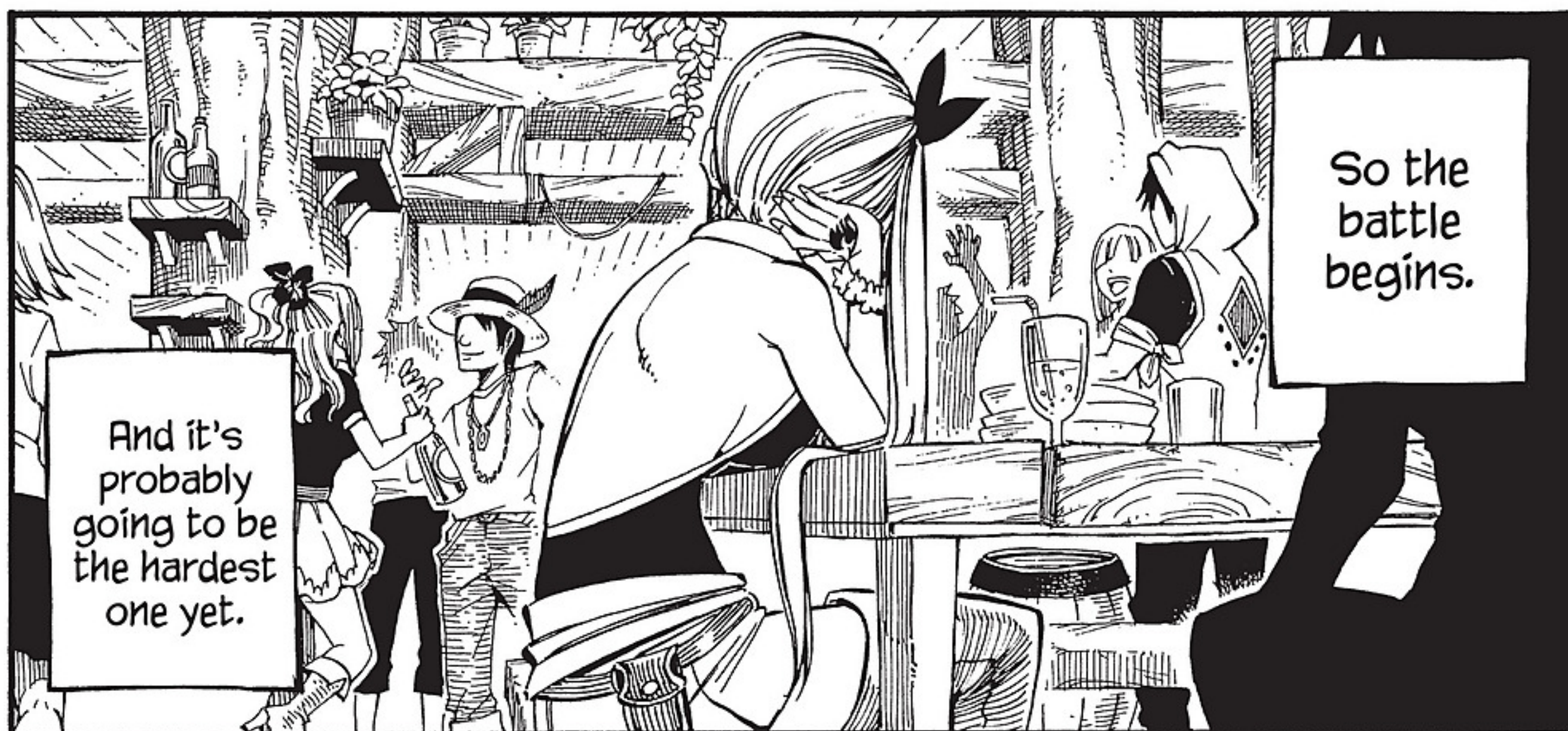
He's taken
on the name
Emperor
Spriggan,
and rules the
empire.

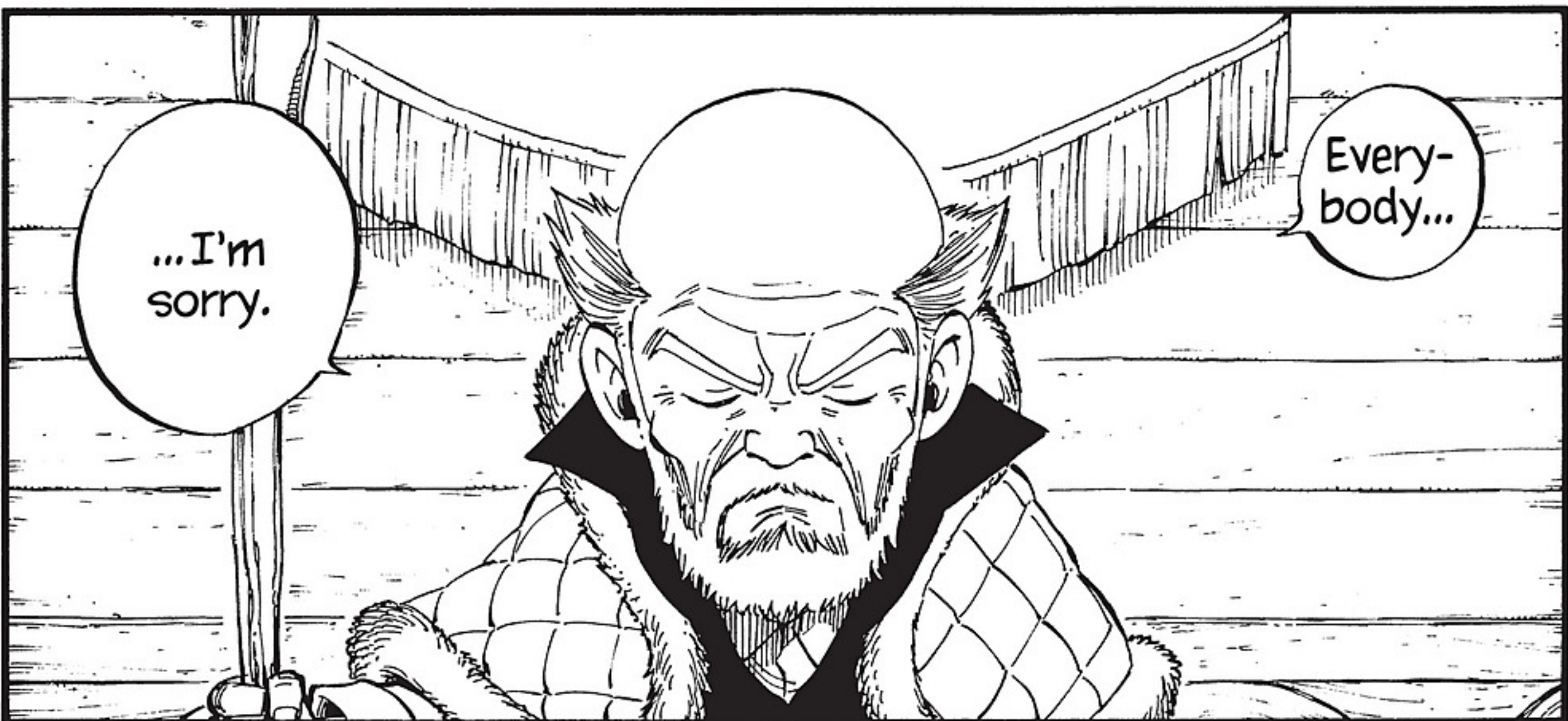
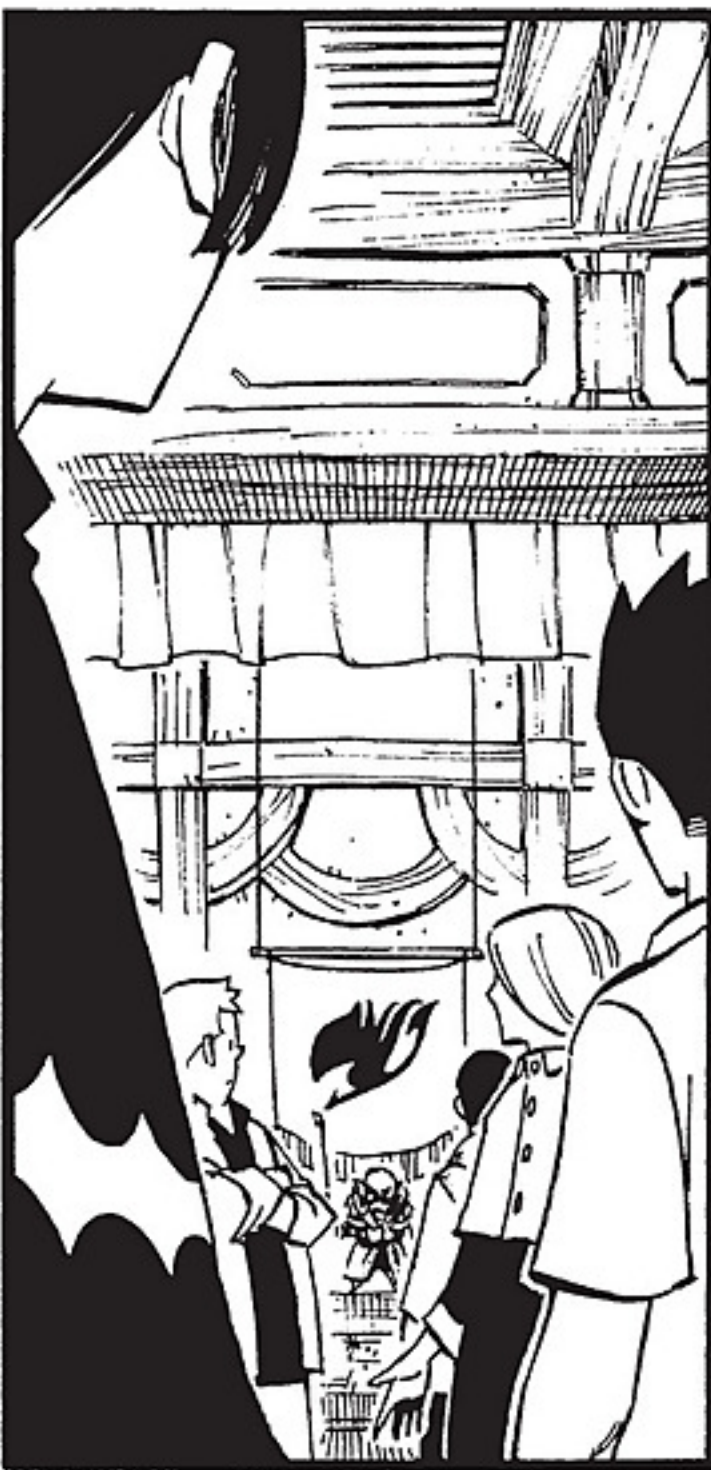
And the
Black
Wizard
Zeref.

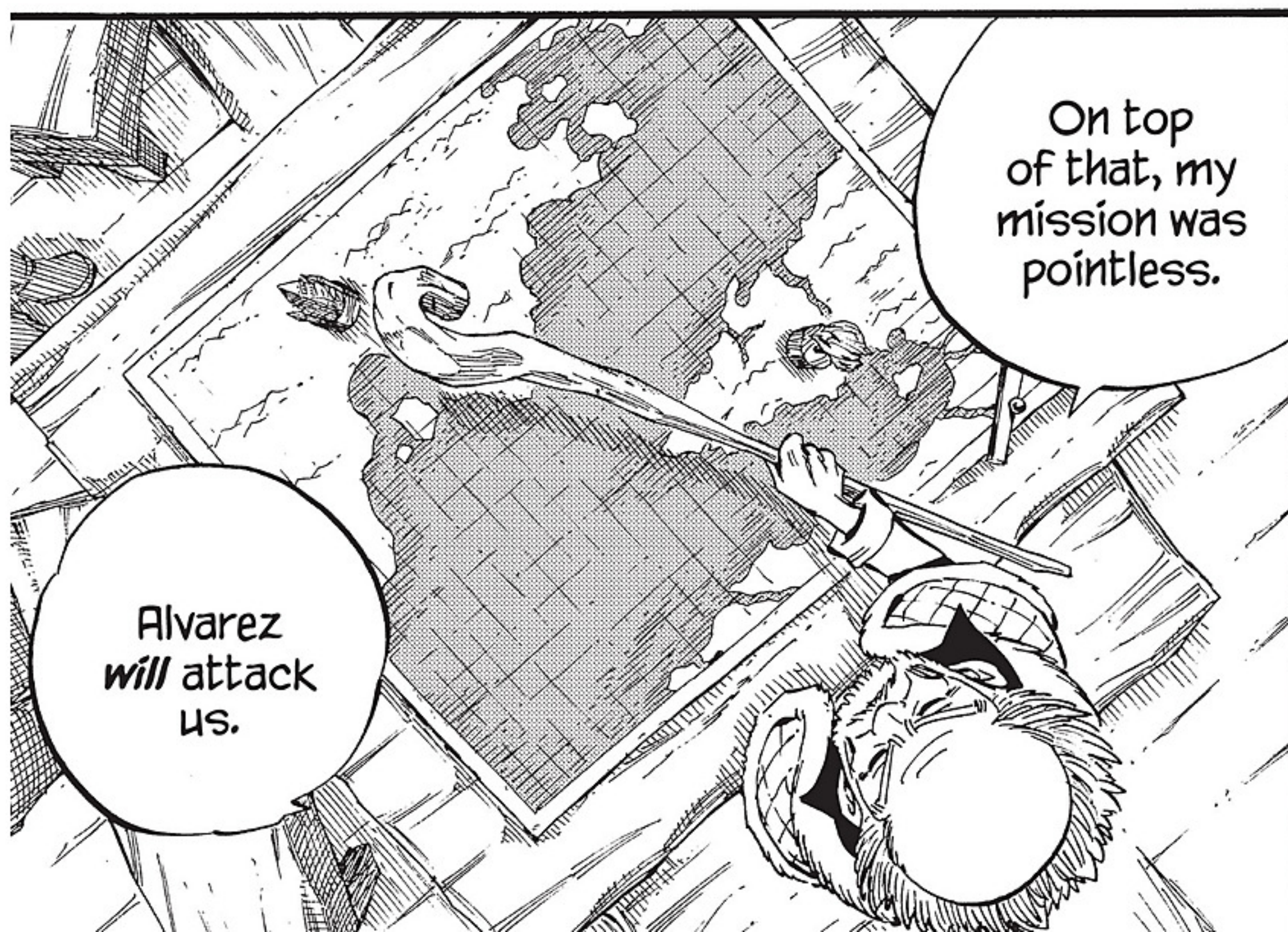
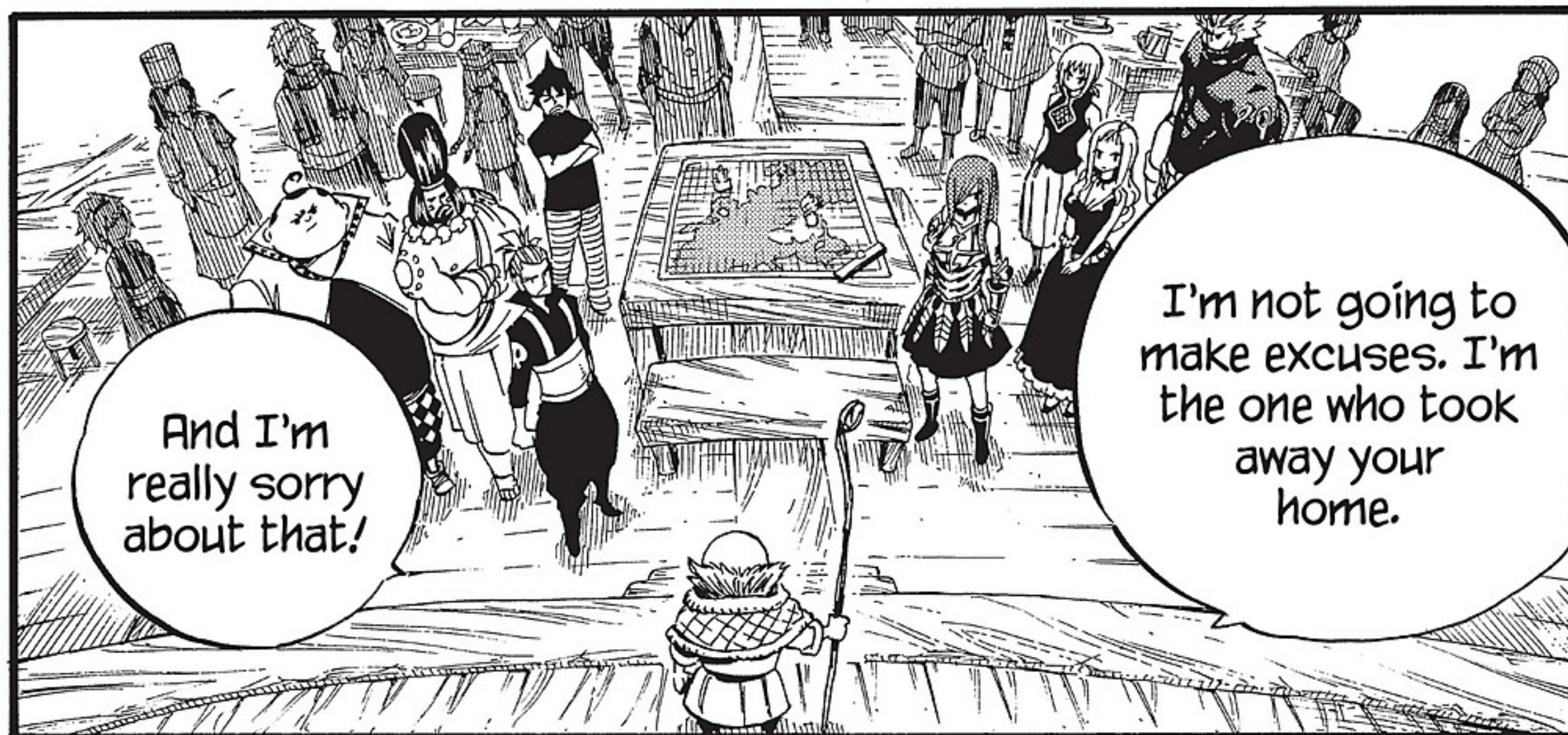


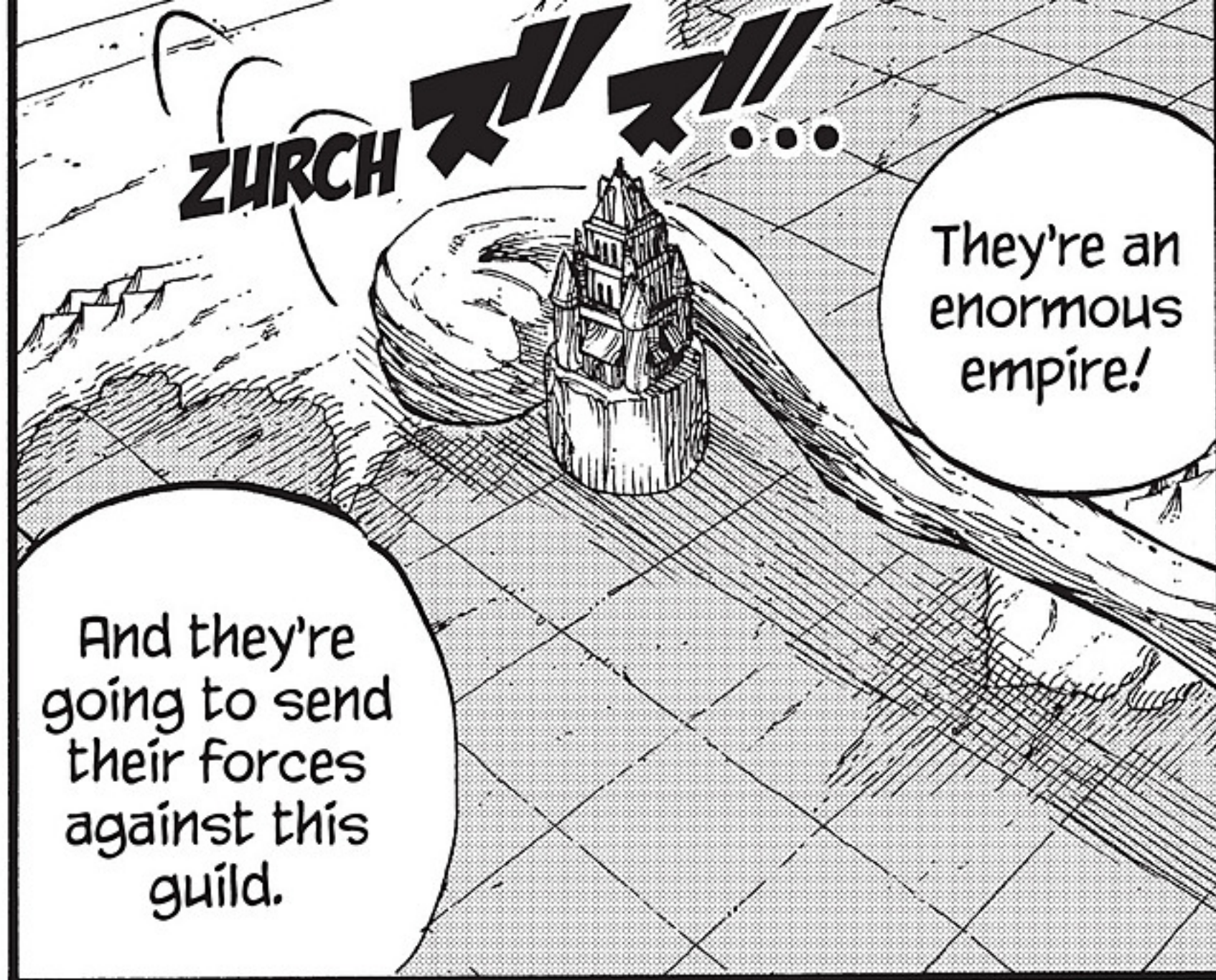
...the body
of the first
master.
It's hidden
beneath our
guild hall.

He wants
Lumen
Histoire...





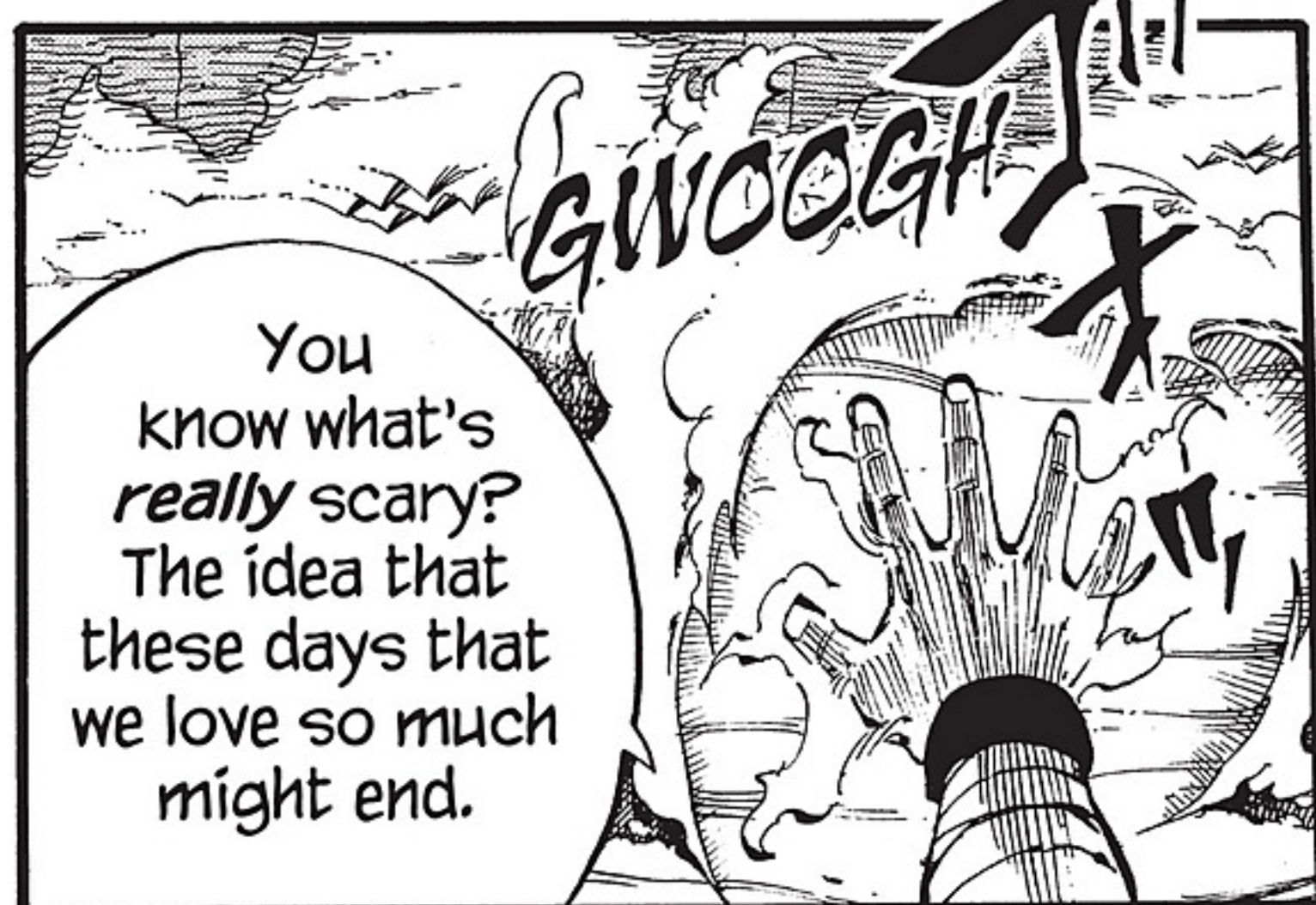






That fear is like
a burden we need
to get rid of, but
don't know how.

Sure, we're
scared!



You
know what's
really scary?
The idea that
these days that
we love so much
might end.



But...
everyone's
gonna help
out! I
know it!!



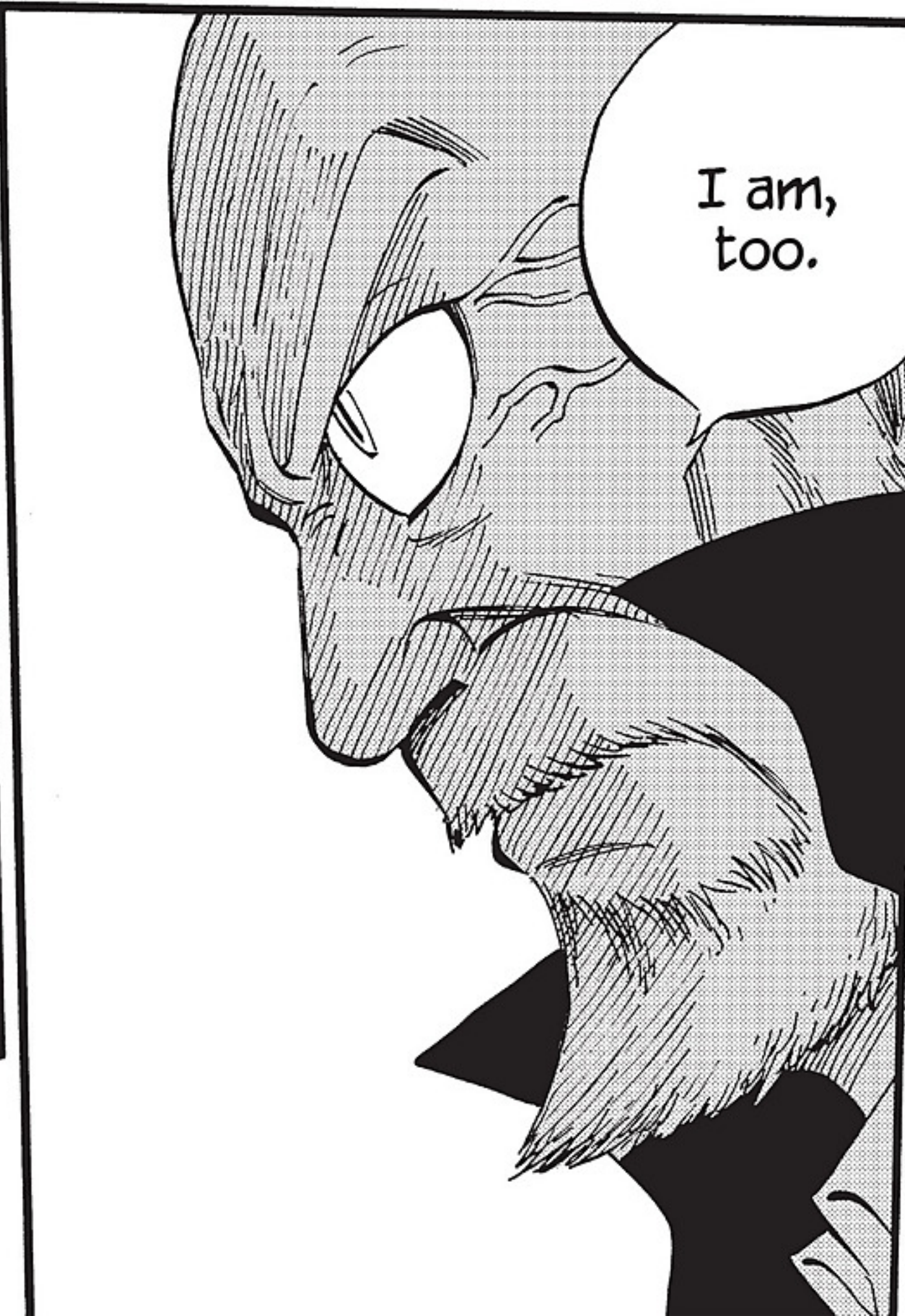
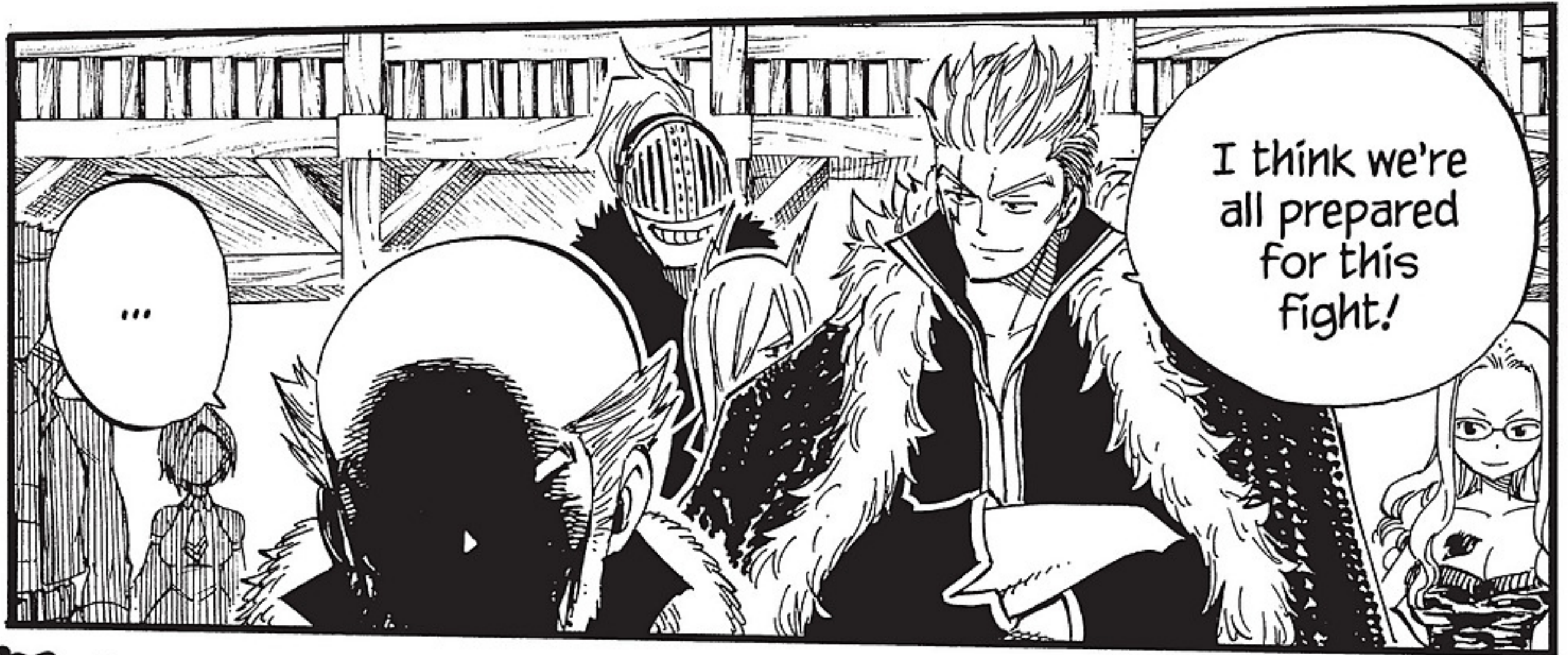
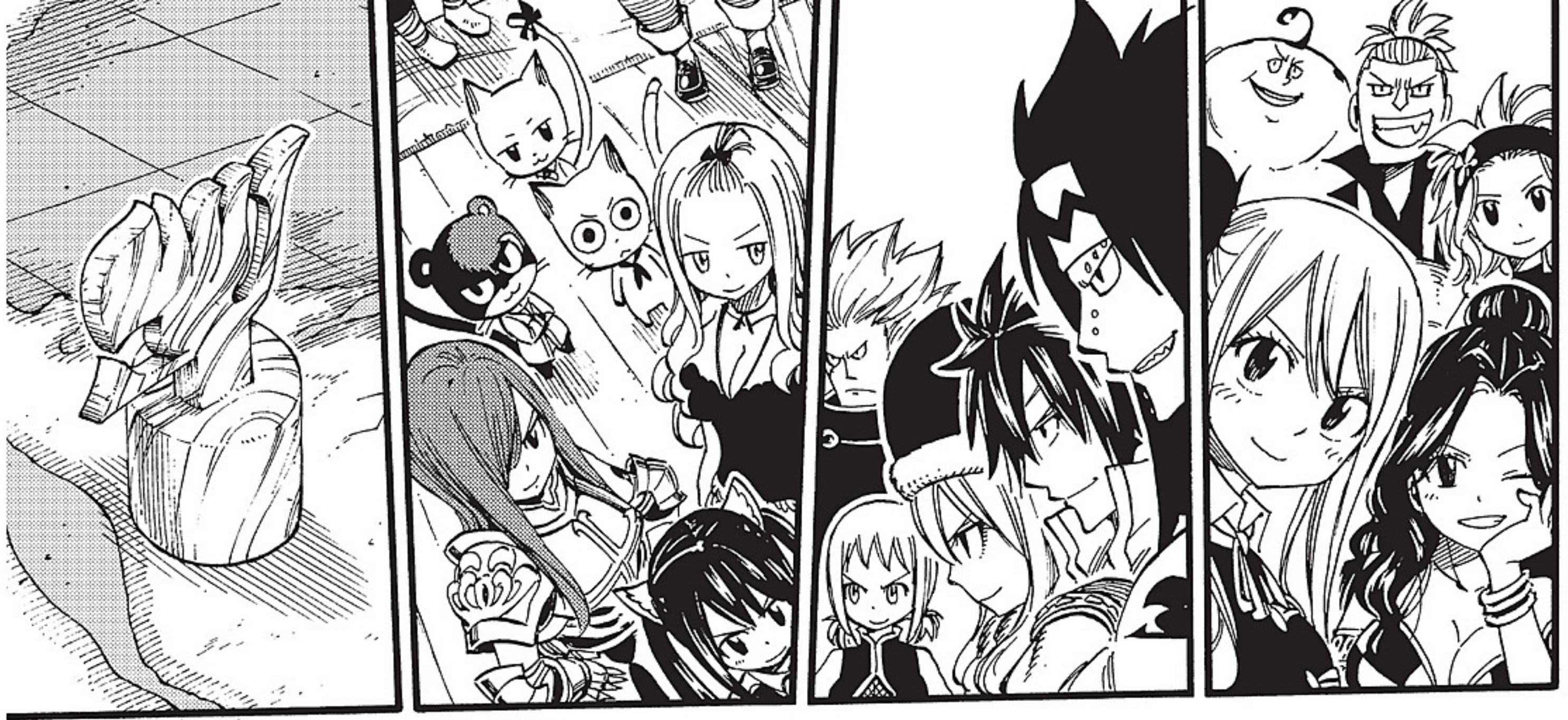
...I'd
fight
anybody!

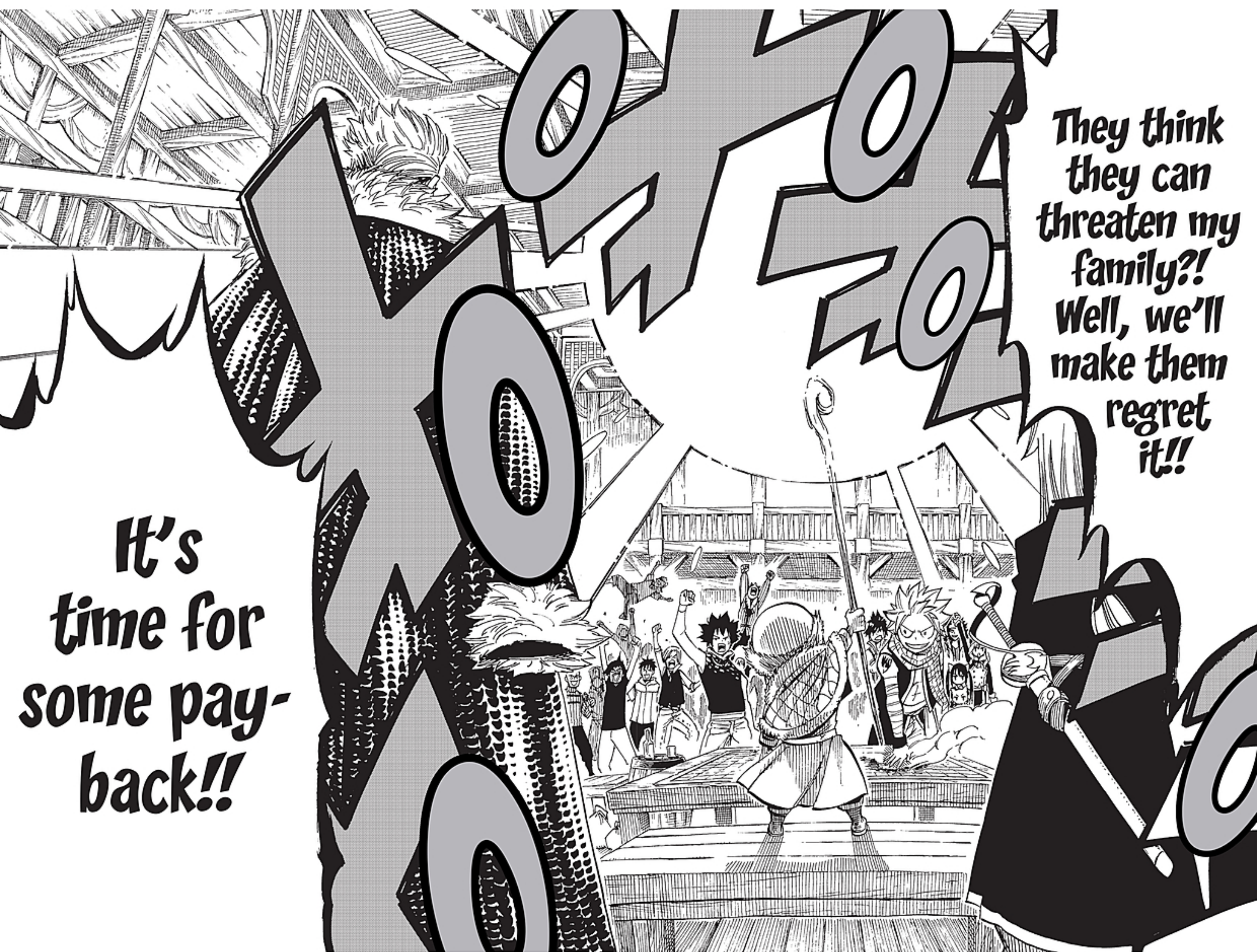
To ensure
that I can
sit around
and laugh
with my
friends
again...



**It ain't
about
winning!
We're
makin' a
stand to
keep on
living!**

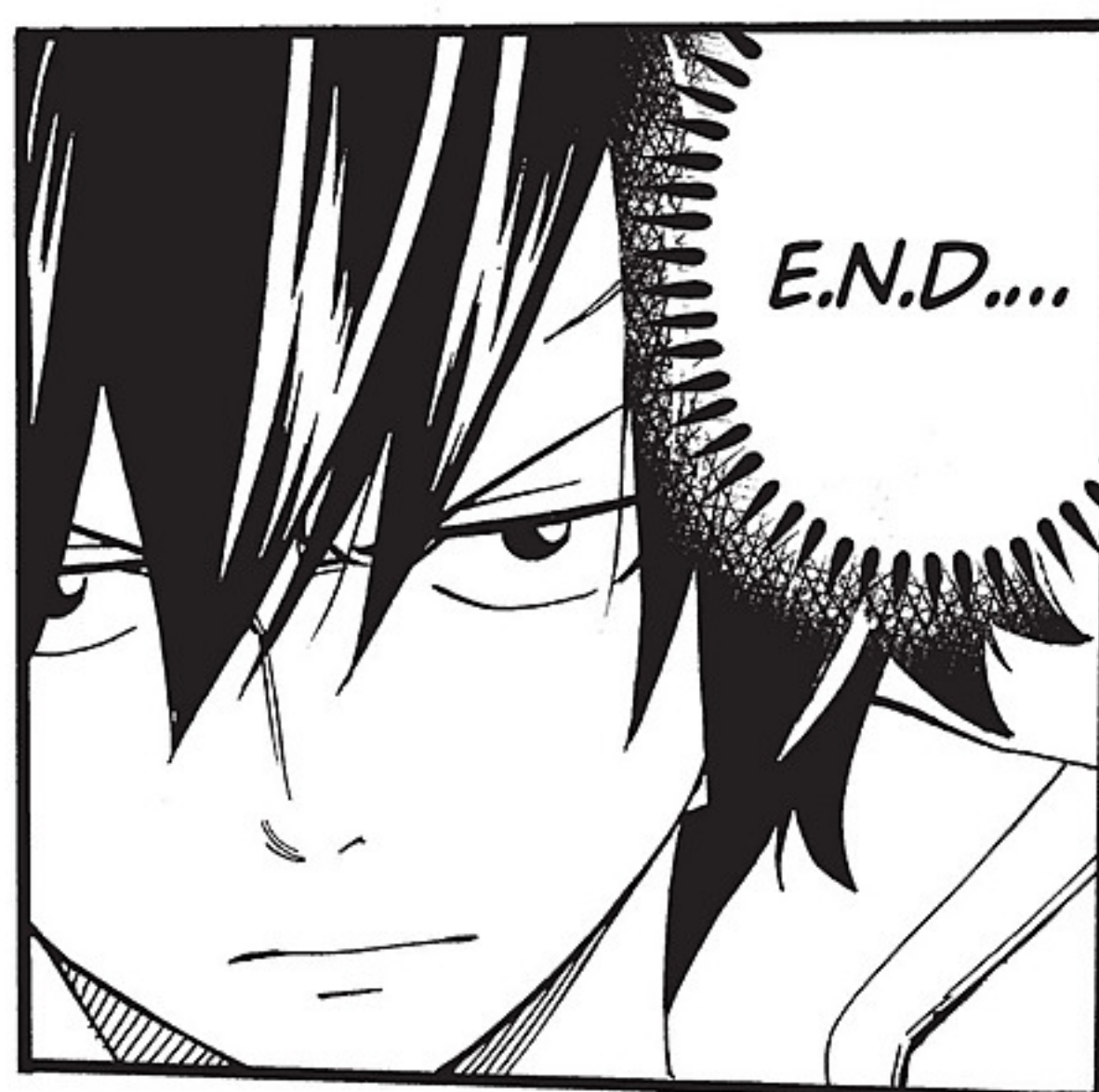
**That's
what
we're
fightin'
for!!**

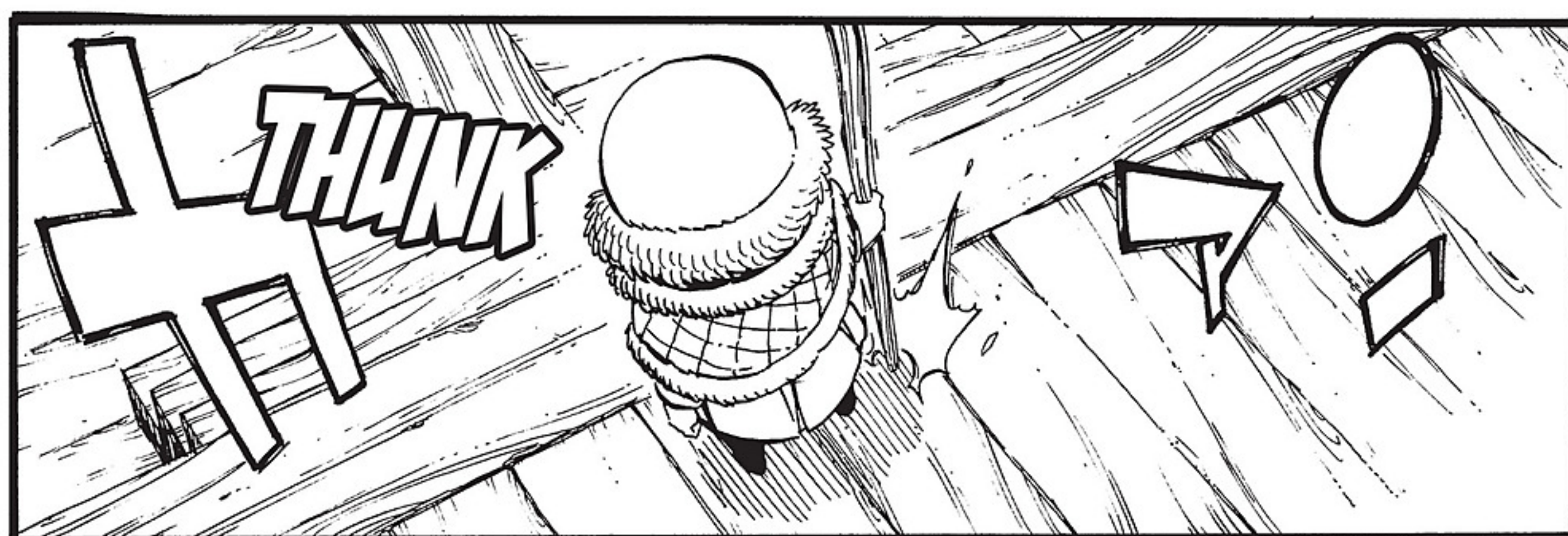




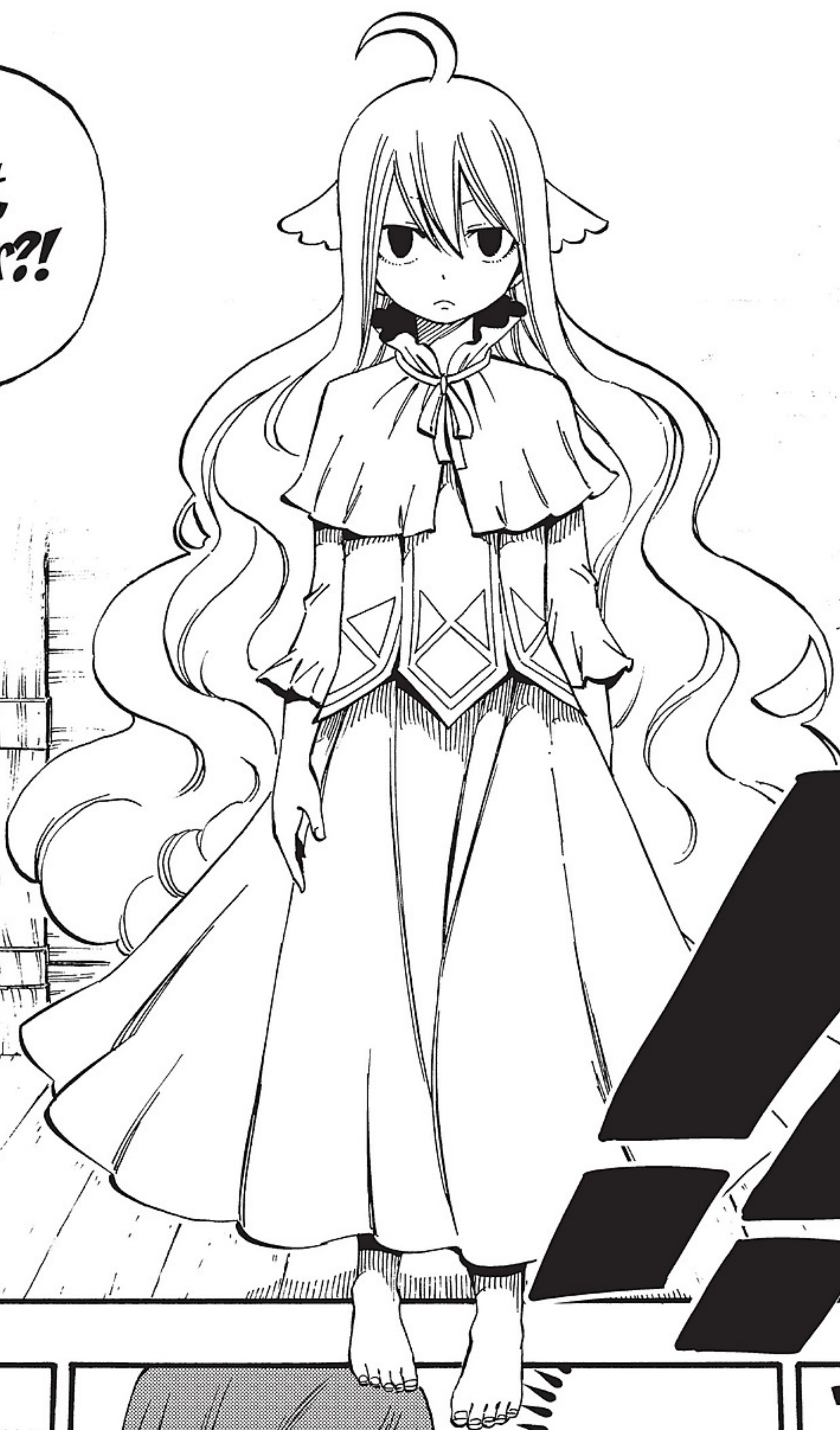
**They think
they can
threaten my
family?!
Well, we'll
make them
regret
it!!**

**It's
time for
some pay-
back!!**





**First
Master?!**



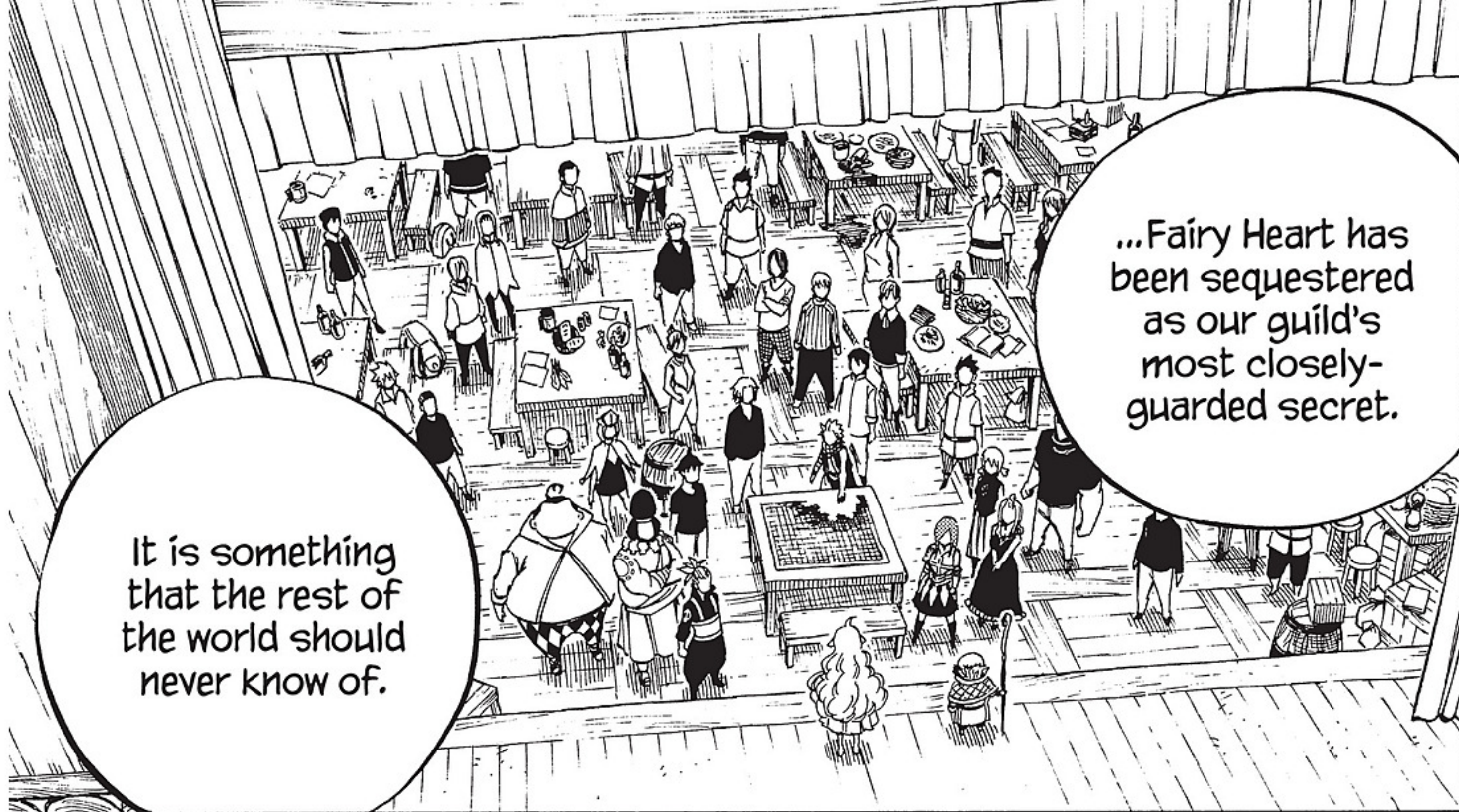
Everyone
...

Or
could it
be...?

Is this the
spirit of
the first
master...?

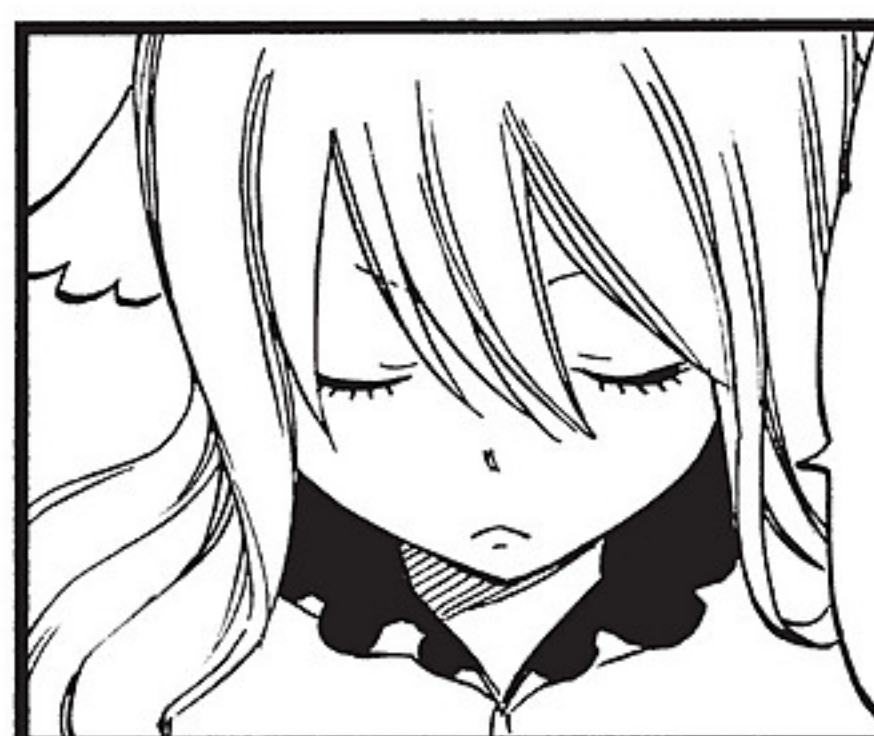
ざわ...
MURMUR



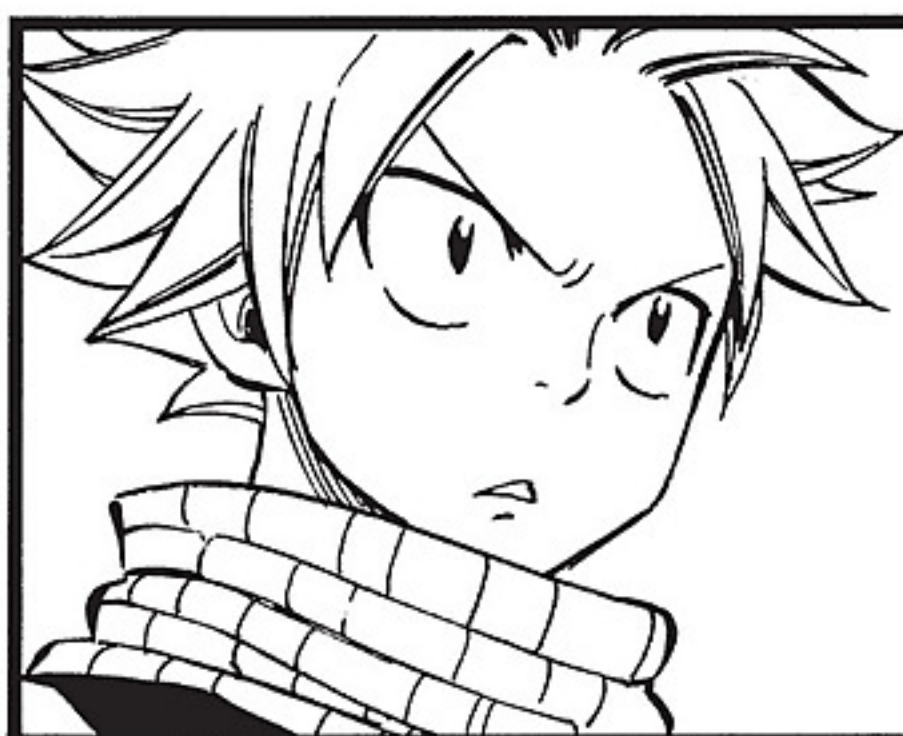


It is something
that the rest of
the world should
never know of.

...Fairy Heart has
been sequestered
as our guild's
most closely-
guarded secret.



However, there
are two things
I feel you must
know. Firstly, why
Zeref wants it
so badly.



No. It's
for the
best.

First
Master
...

Wrong-
doing?

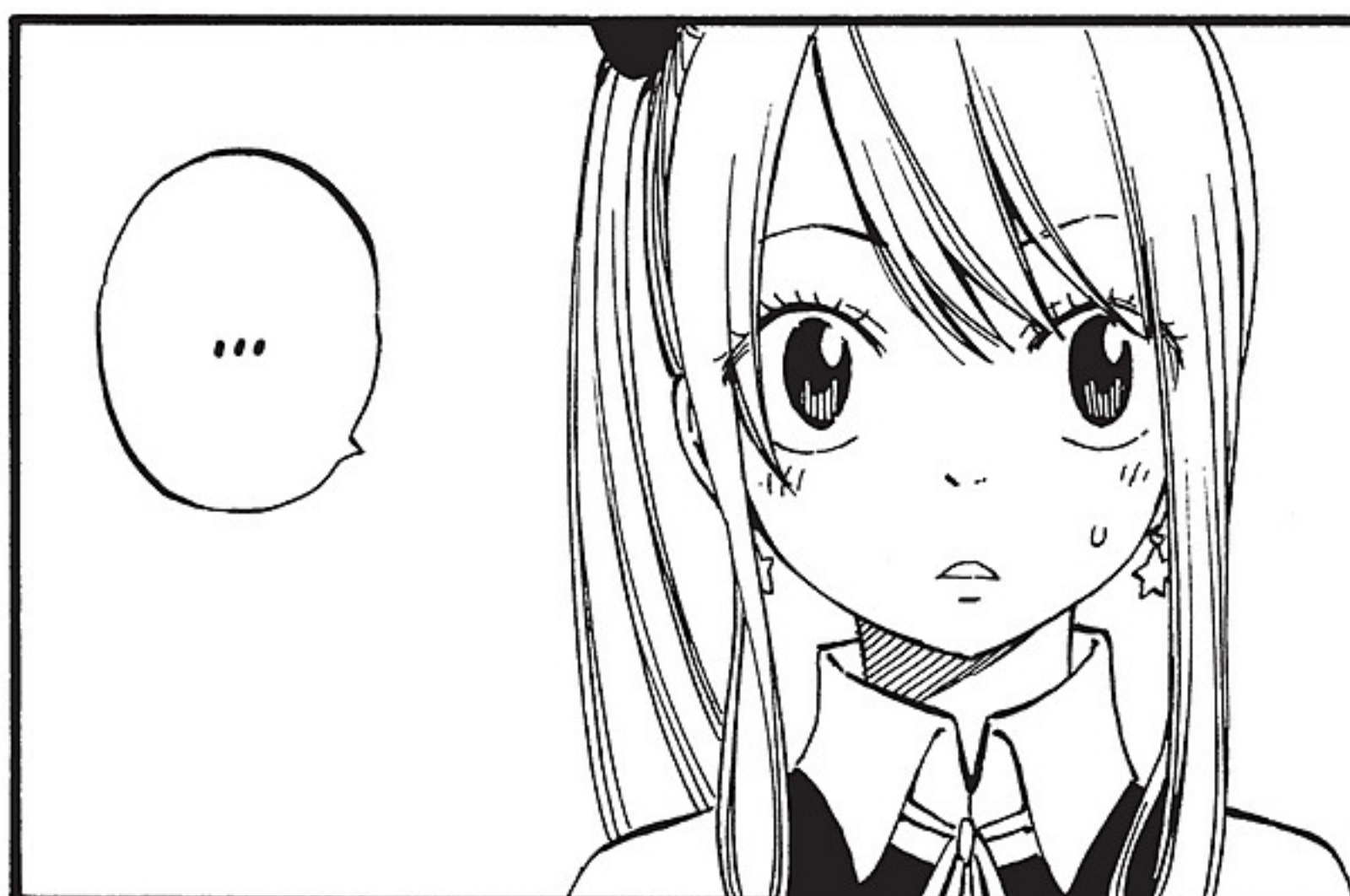
And
secondly, of
my wrong-
doing.

The time
has come
to tell
everything.





This is the
story of a
cursed boy
and a cursed
girl.



...

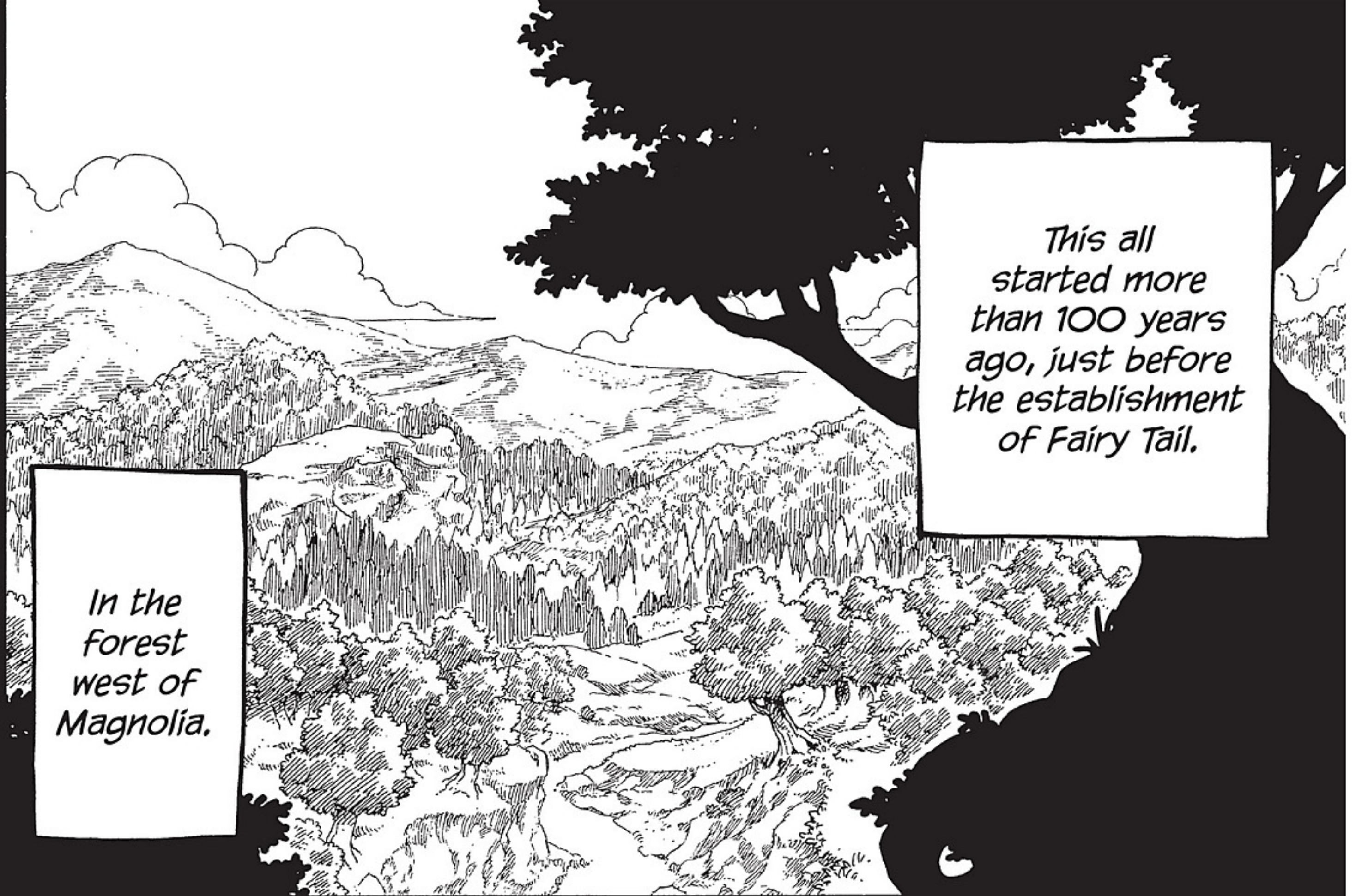
And a tale of
the singular
magic they
sought.

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

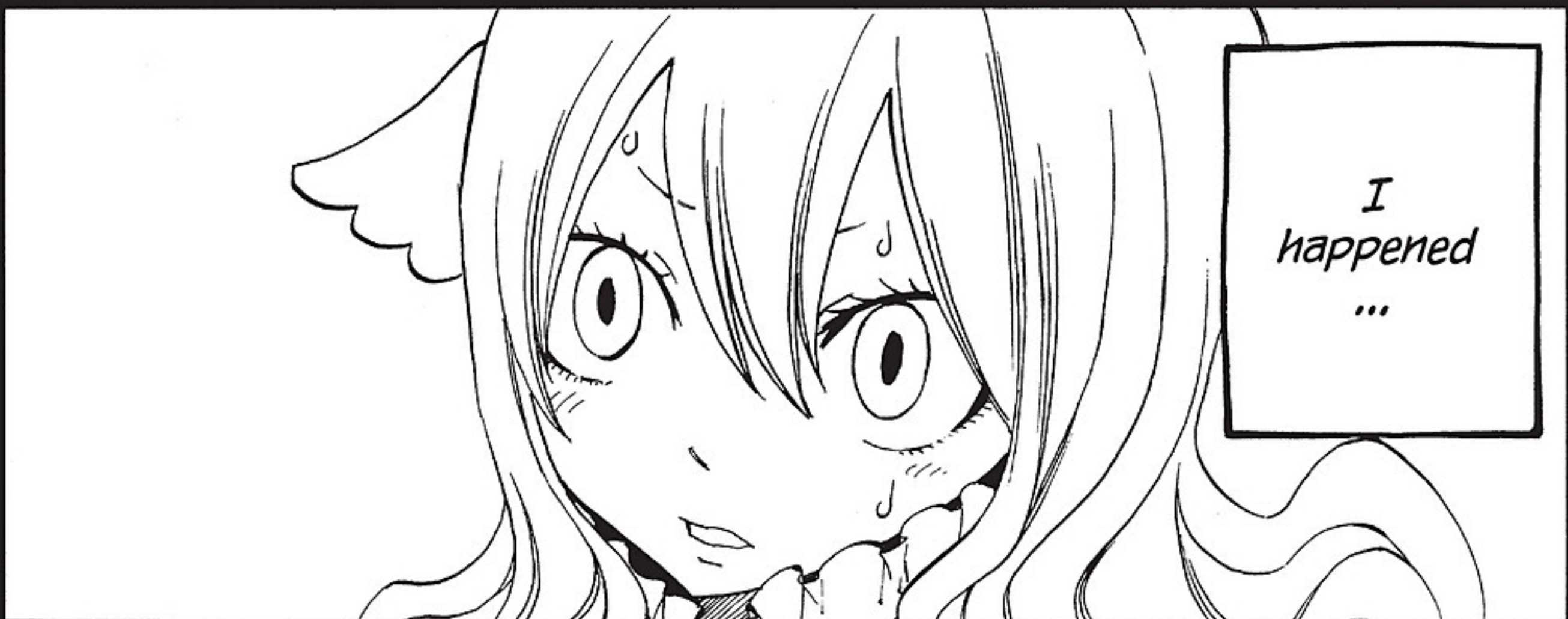


Chapter 449: Mavis and Zeref



In the forest west of Magnolia.

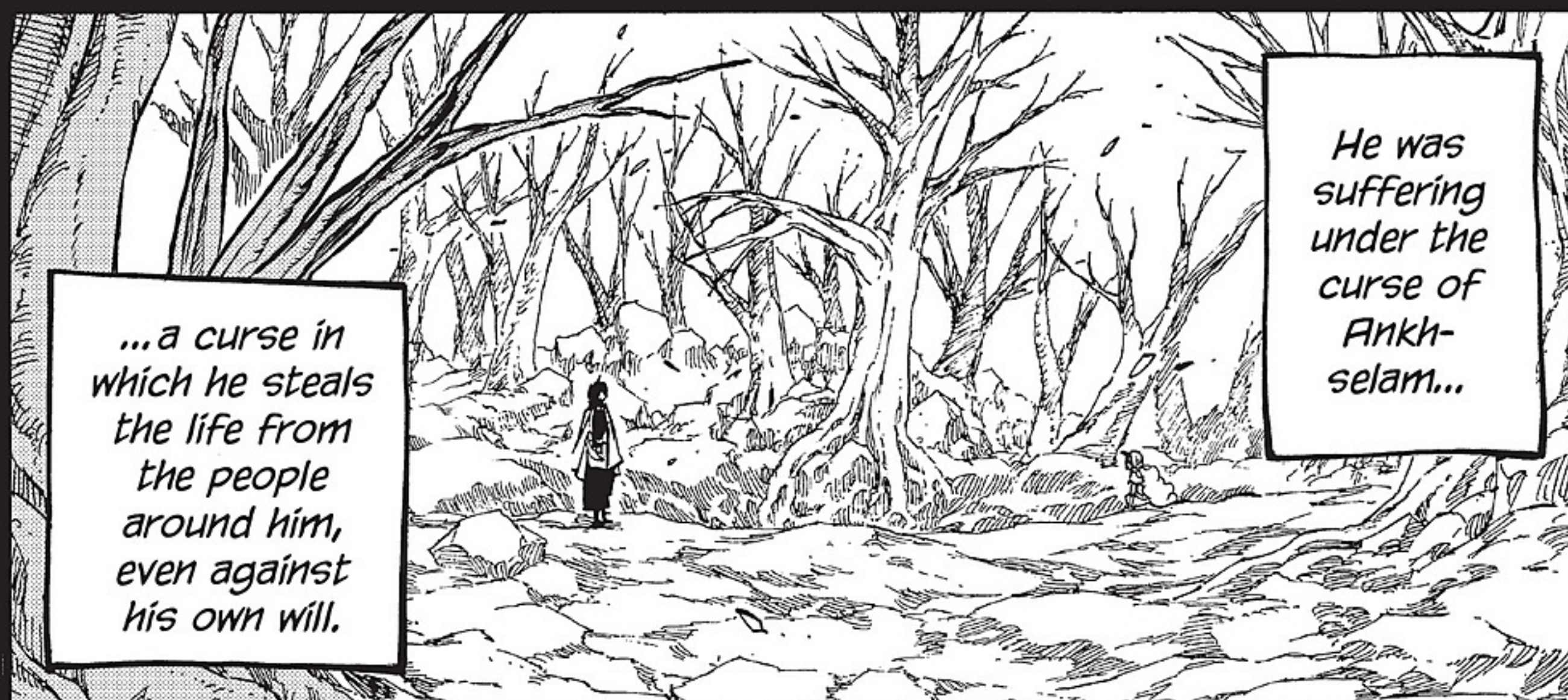
This all started more than 100 years ago, just before the establishment of Fairy Tail.



I happened ...

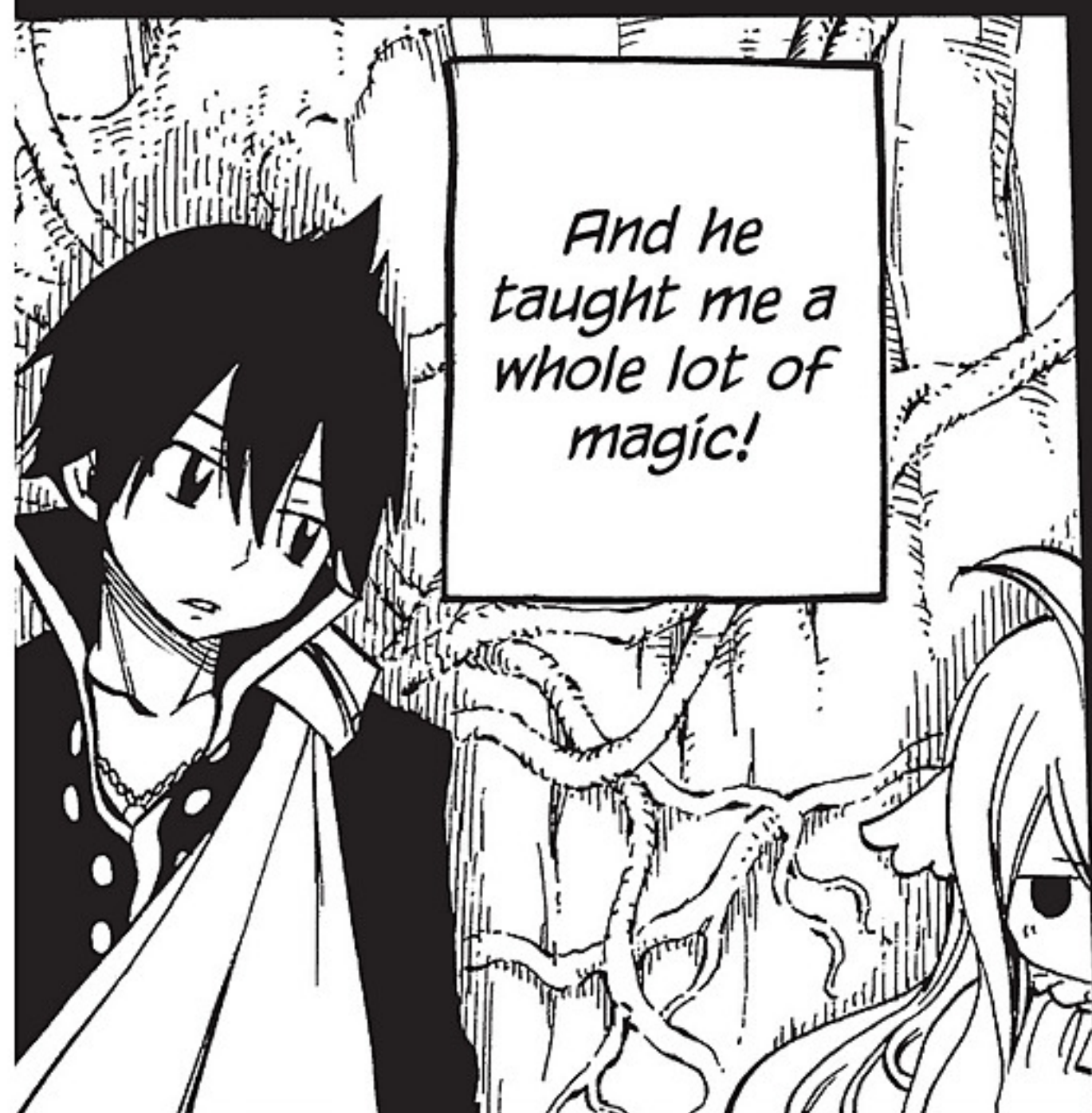


...to come across a boy.



...a curse in which he steals the life from the people around him, even against his own will.

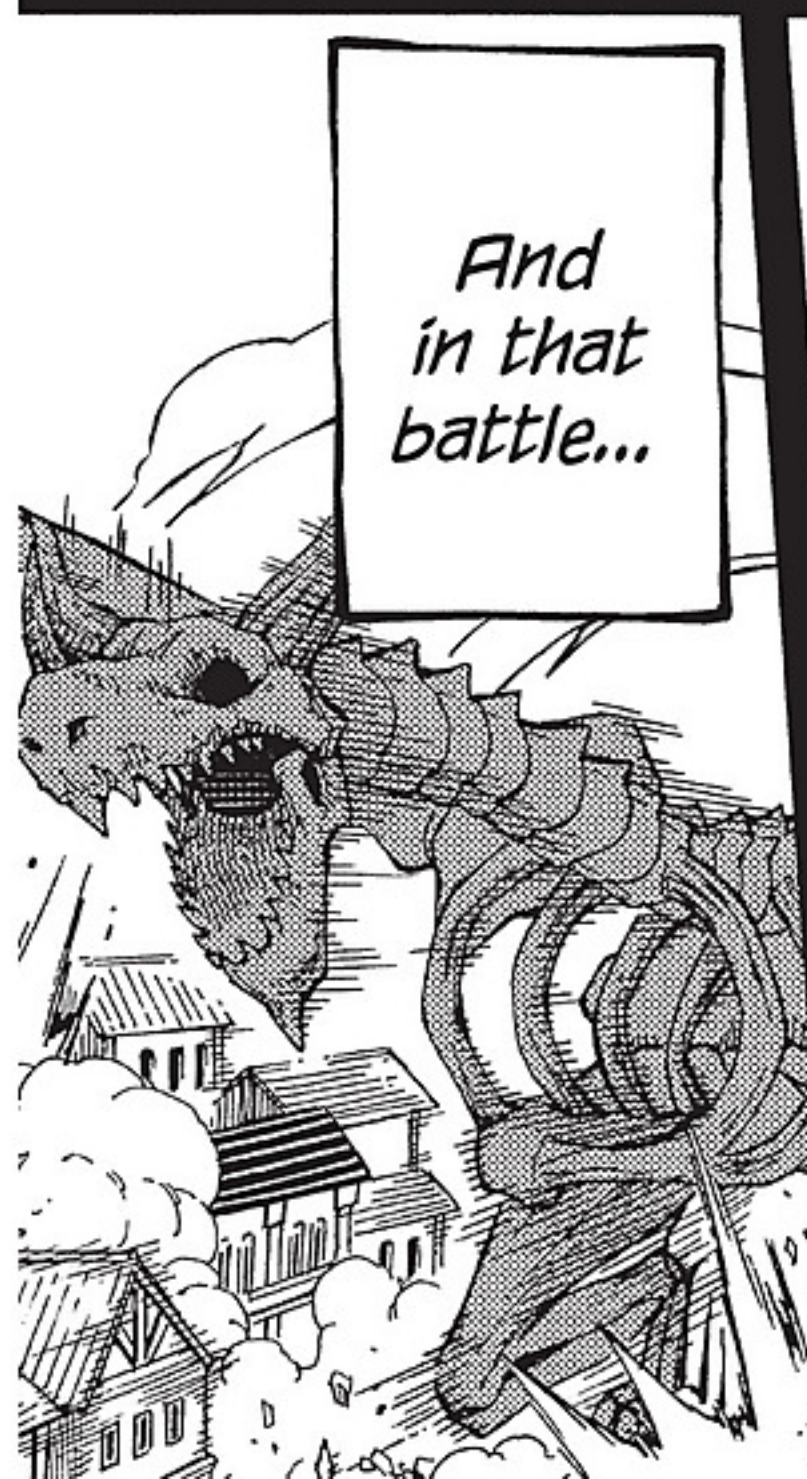
He was suffering under the curse of Ankh-selam...



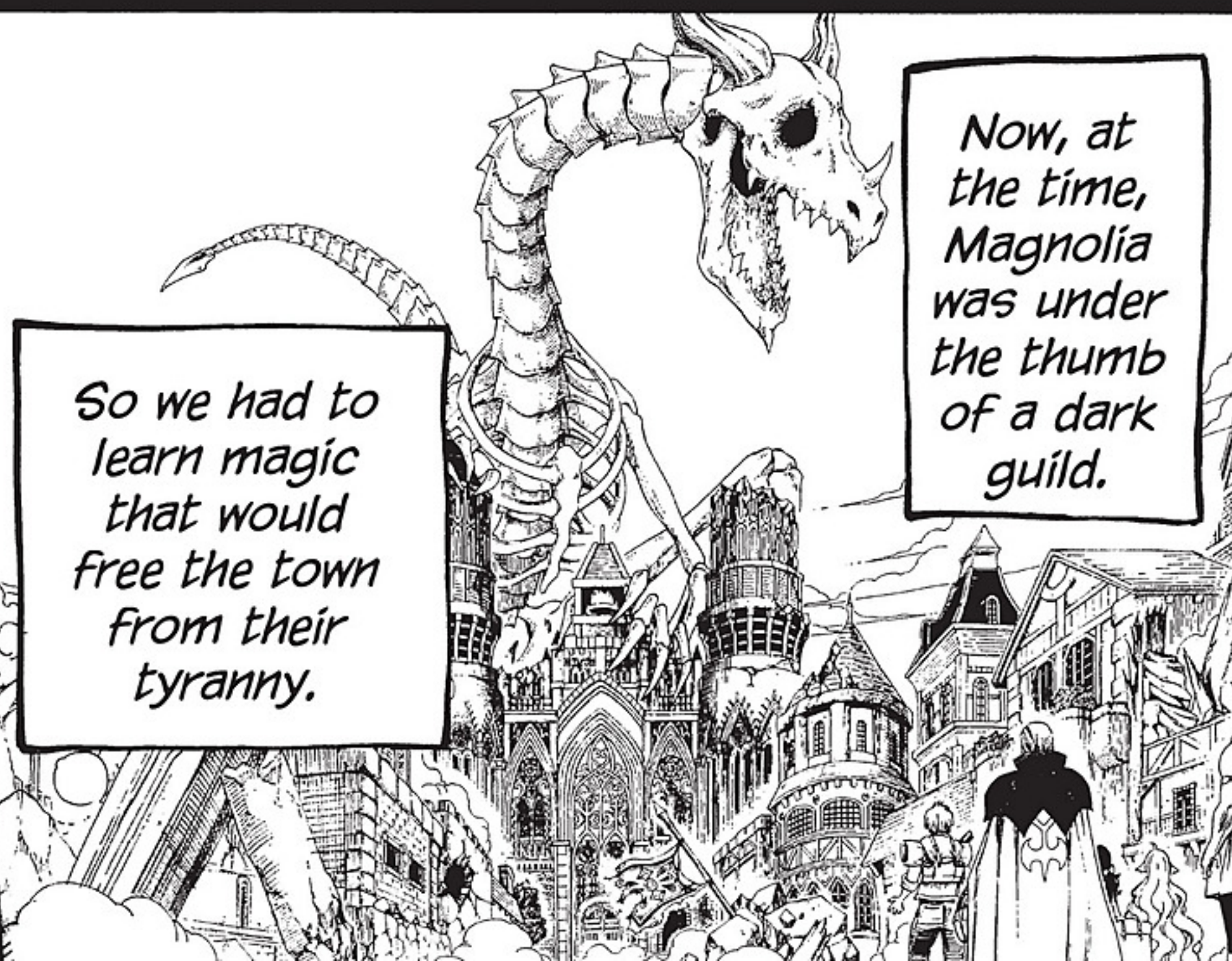
And he taught me a whole lot of magic!



But something about him drew me to him.



And in that battle...



So we had to learn magic that would free the town from their tyranny.

Now, at the time, Magnolia was under the thumb of a dark guild.



*...we won
because I
used some
black magic
that wasn't
fully complete.*

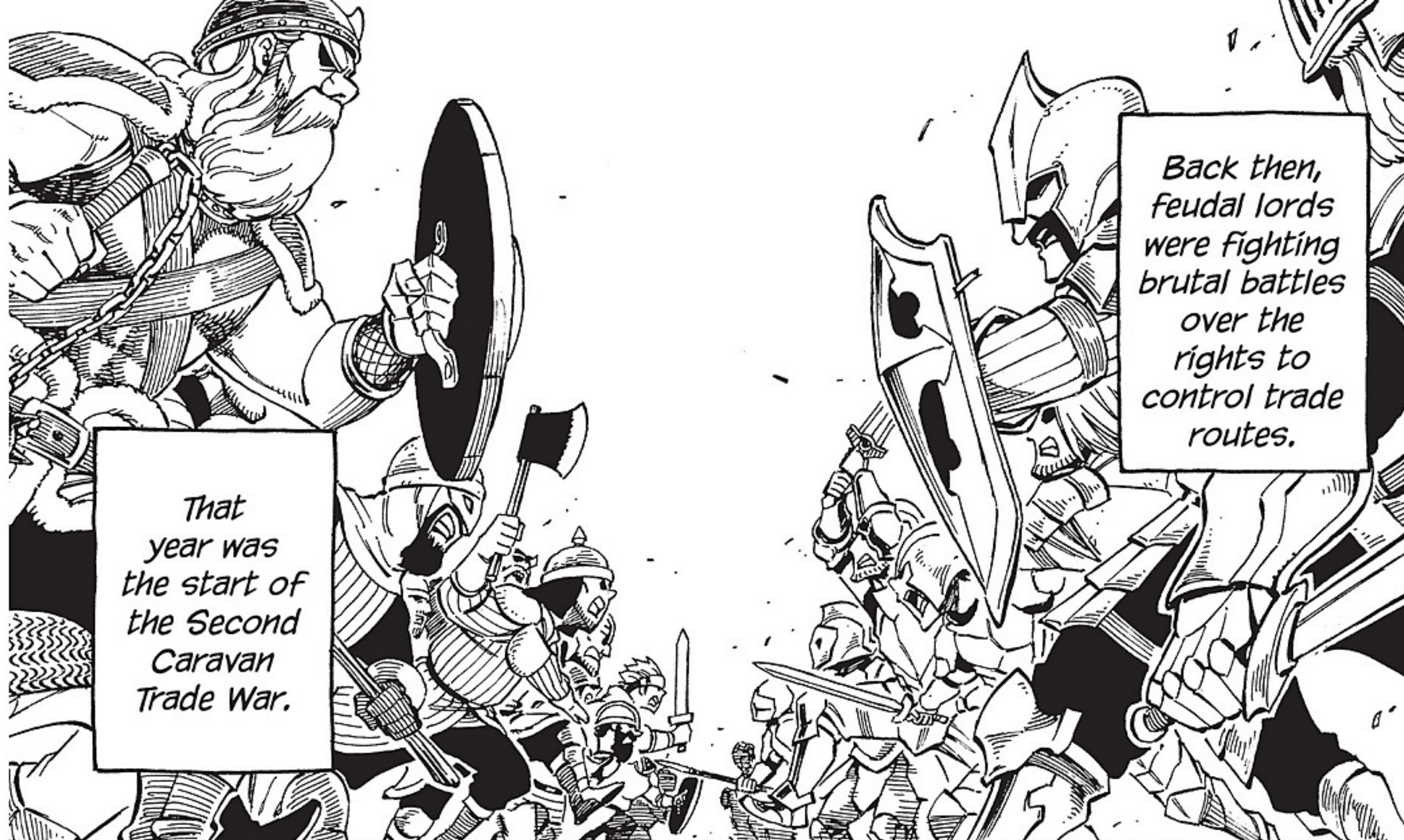


*Still...at
the time,
I thought
nothing
of it.*

*The price
was that
my body
would never
mature.*

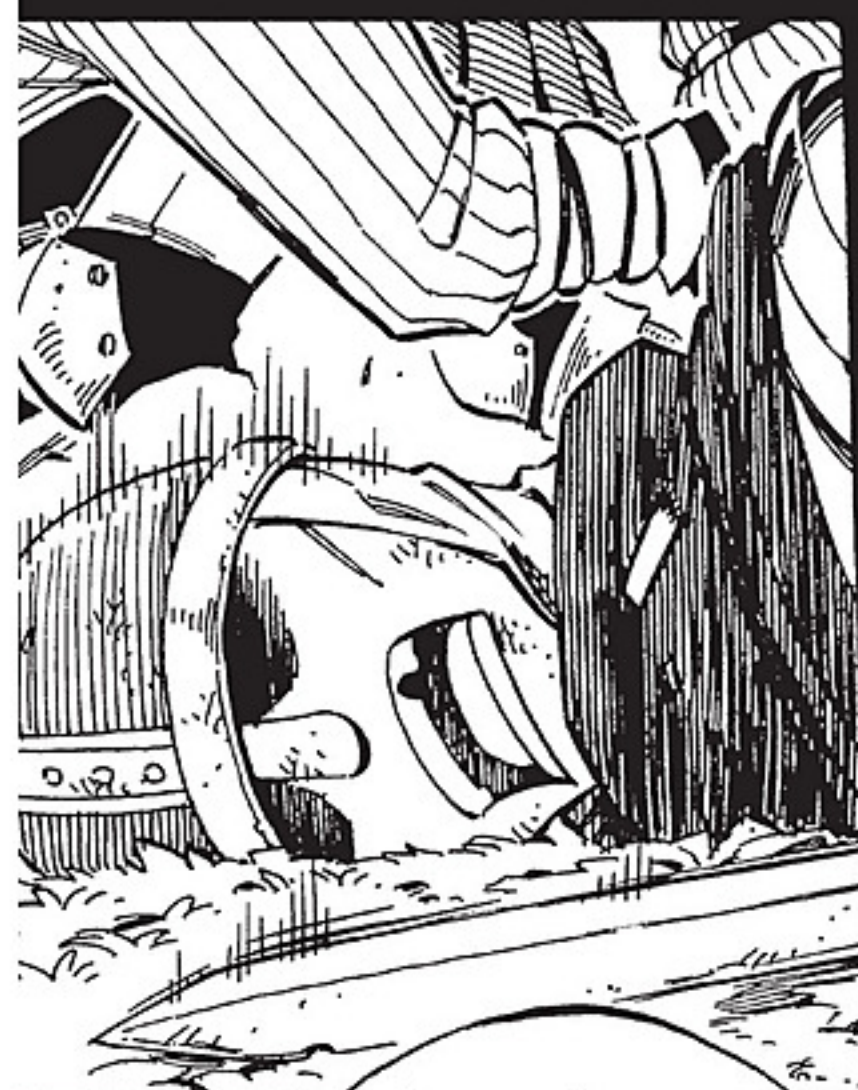


*In April
of the year
X686,
Fairy
Tail was
founded!*



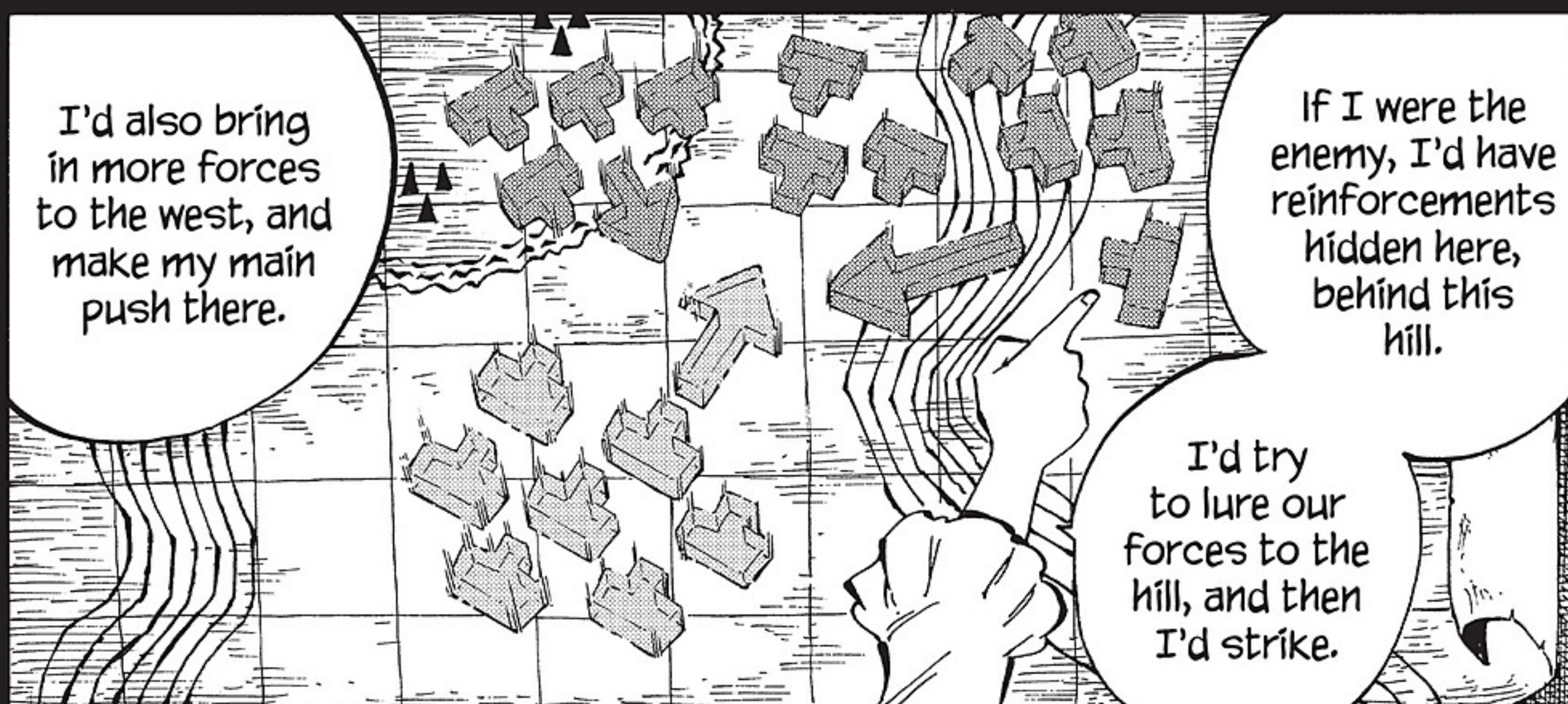
*Back then,
feudal lords
were fighting
brutal battles
over the
rights to
control trade
routes.*

*That
year was
the start of
the Second
Caravan
Trade War.*



*Eventually, the
wizard guilds
signed up as
mercenaries,
and now
wizards were
caught up in
the war, too.*





But her analysis skills are really something!

What "princess" is at home on a battlefield?

Here she goes again! Our little princess...

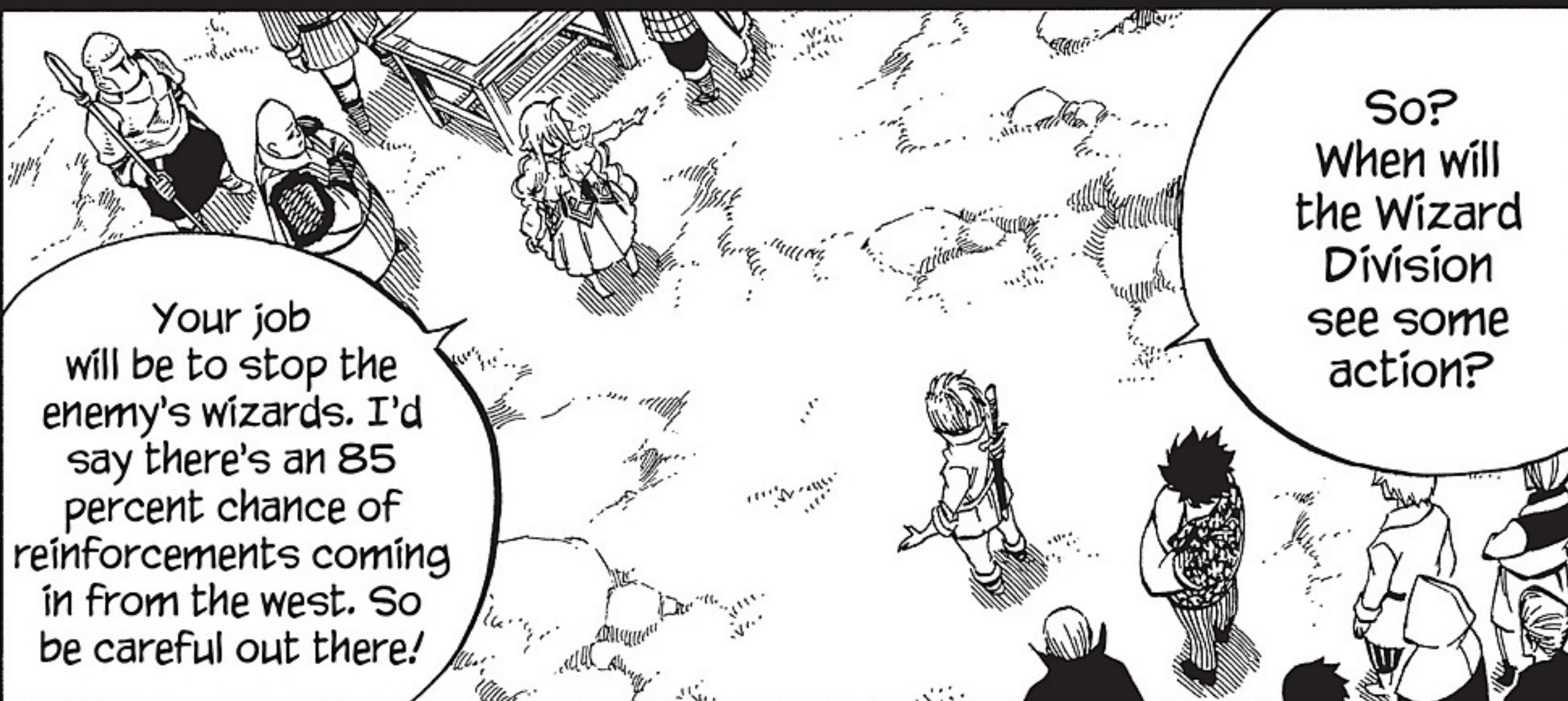
Warrod Sequen

(Later became the fourth most powerful of the Ten Wizard Saints.)

Precht Gaebolg

(Later became the second master of Fairy Tail, and much later, master of Grimoire Heart.)

Yuri Dreyar
(Later, Makarov's father.)



Your job will be to stop the enemy's wizards. I'd say there's an 85 percent chance of reinforcements coming in from the west. So be careful out there!

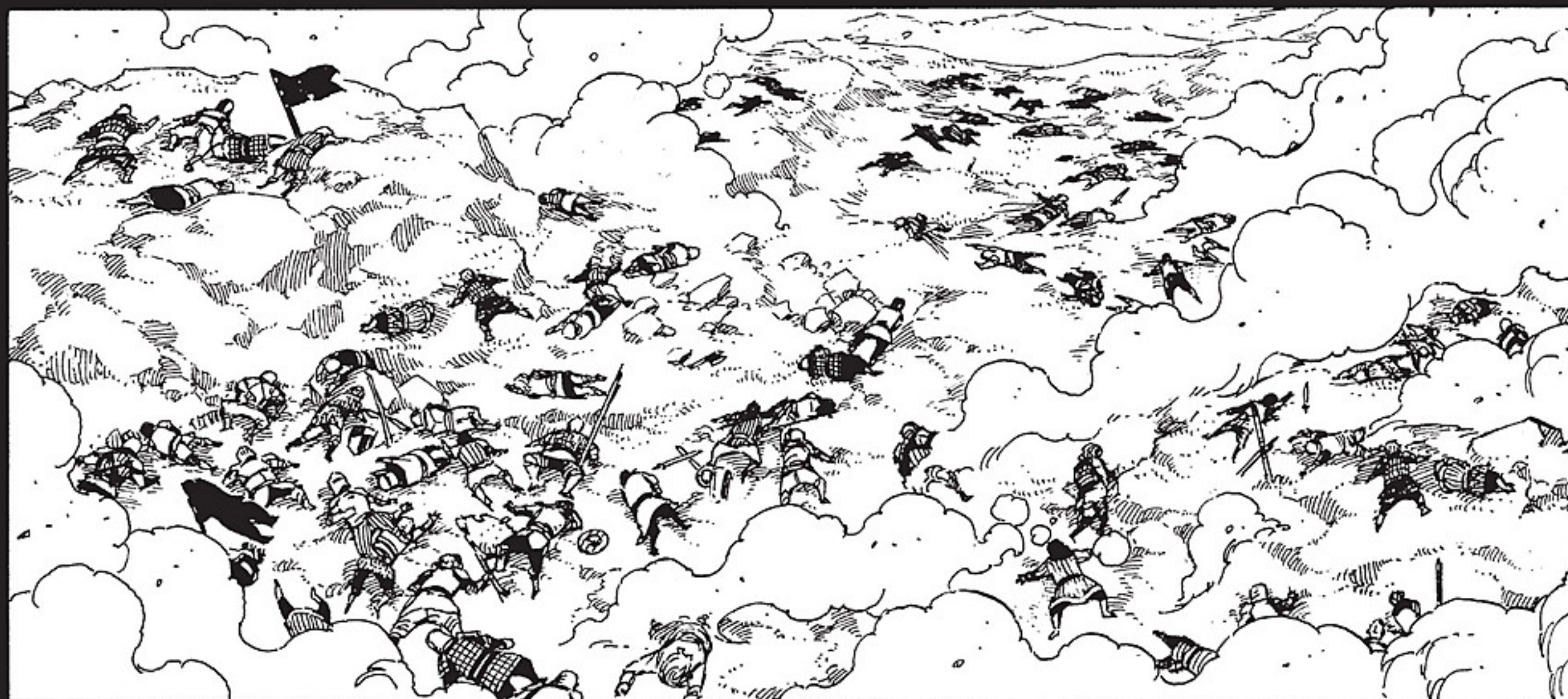
So? When will the Wizard Division see some action?



Okay, ya jerks! Ready to roll?!

Hm!

Right! Now we get to have some fun!!



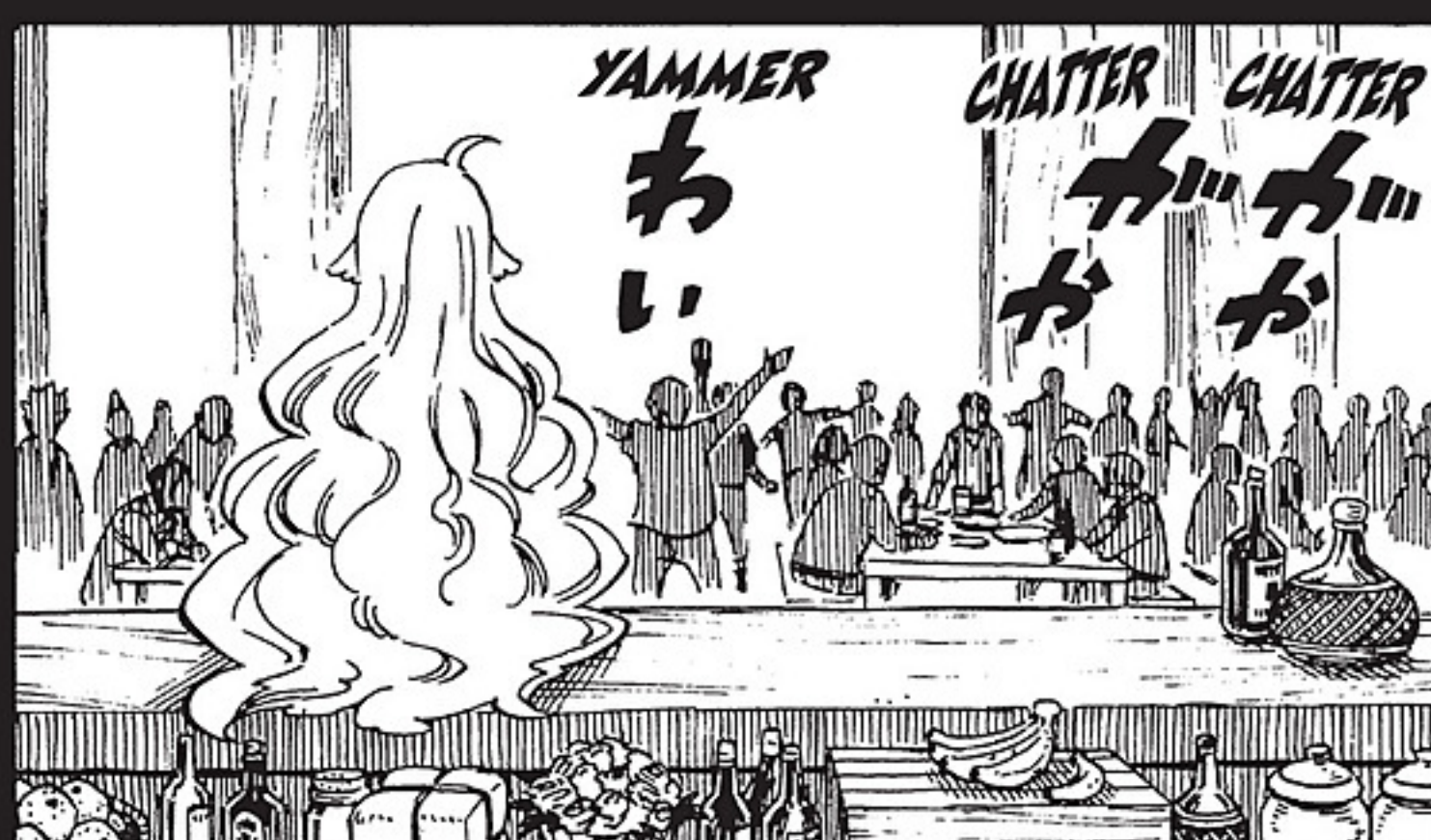


Cheers!!!

Go bring
every bottle
of wine we've
got!!

And look
at how much
money we
made!!

We
won!!!



YAMMER

CHATTER

CHATTER

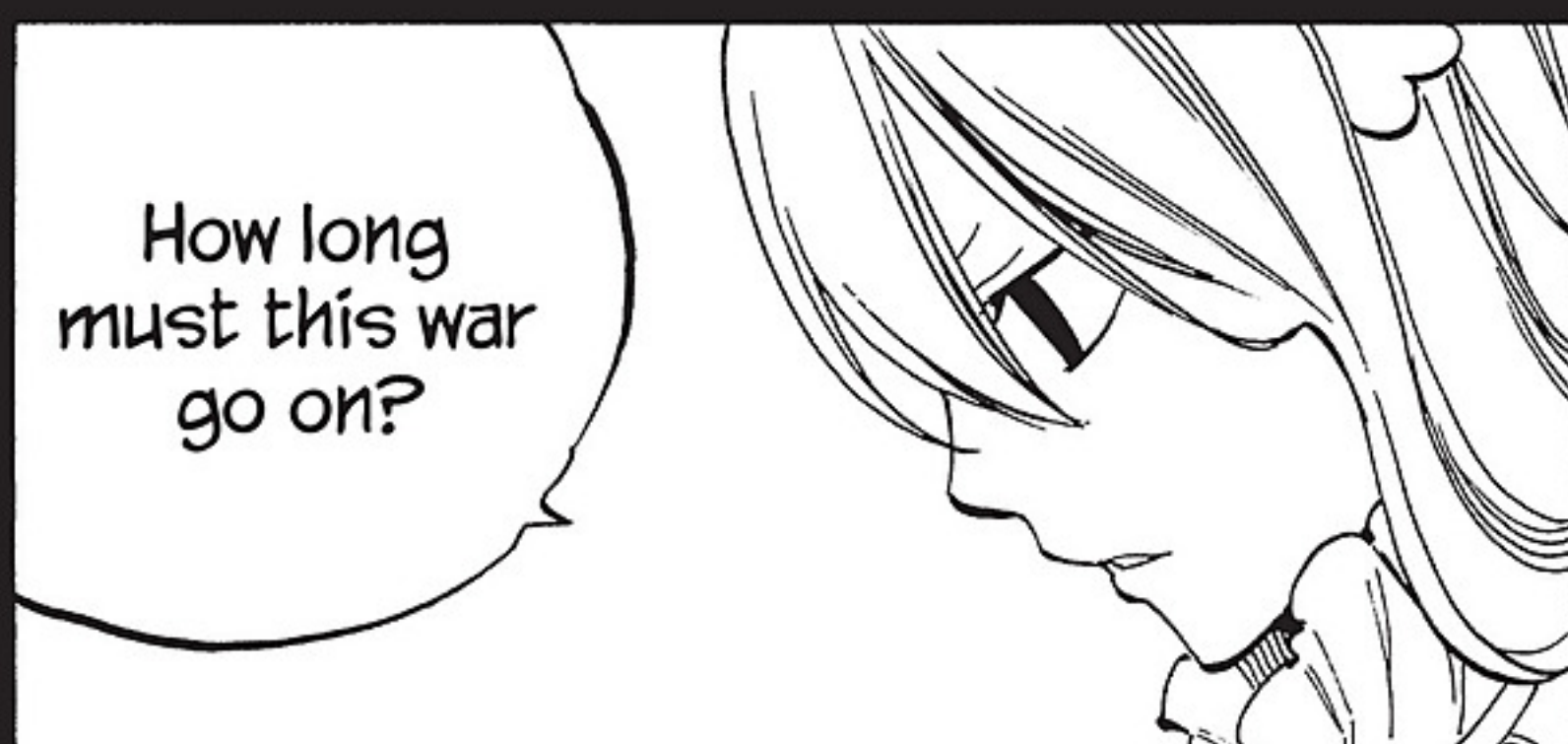


I was just
wondering
how many
lives were
lost on the
battlefield
today.

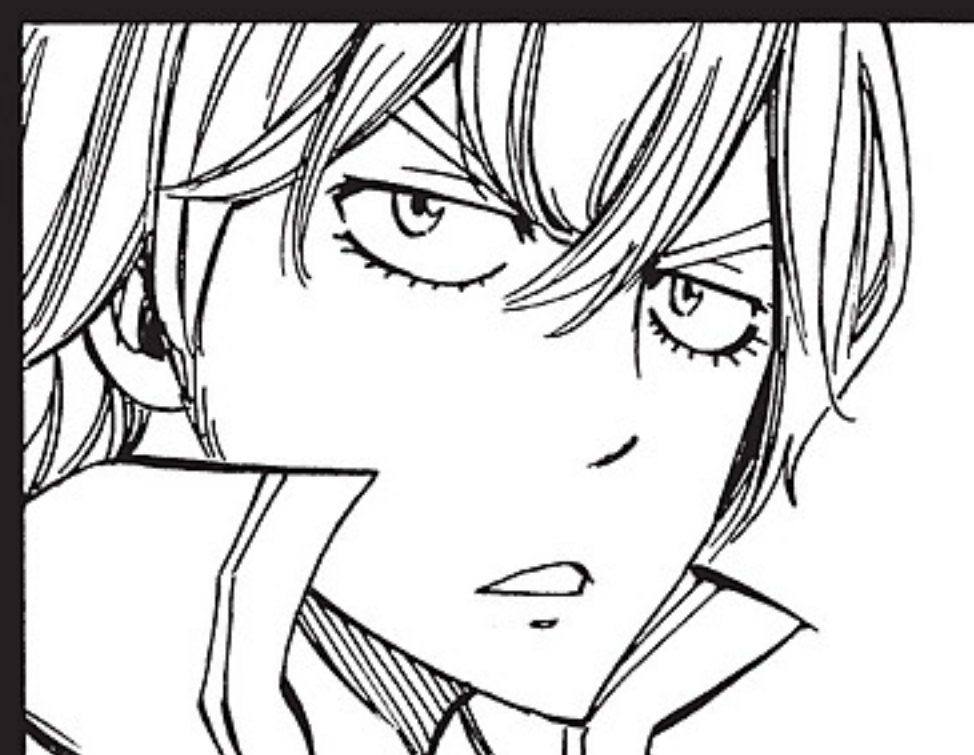


What's
the matter,
Mavis?

...



How long
must this war
go on?



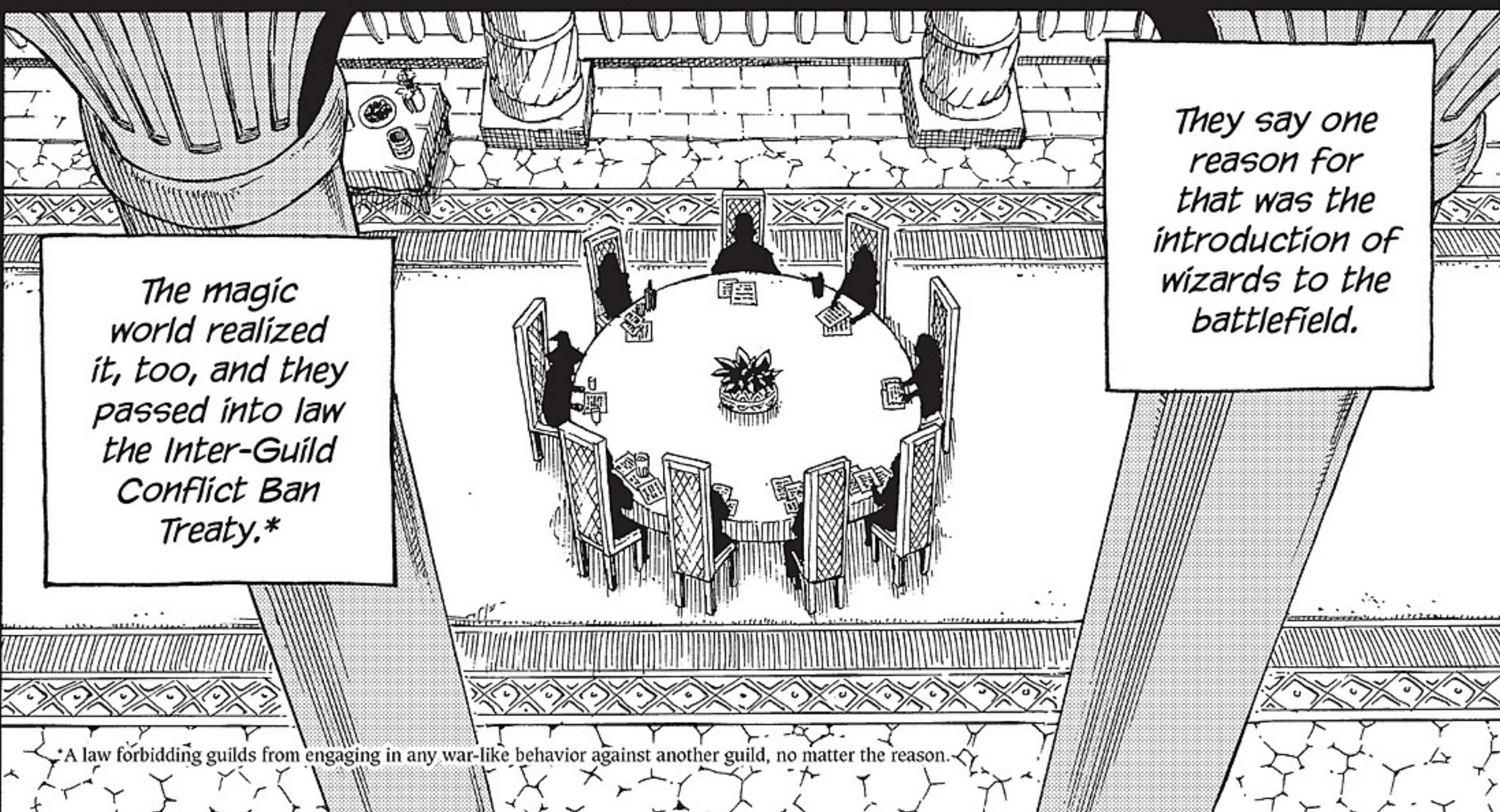


I want to
go back to
adventuring!



And not a
moment too soon.
The casualty rate
was already dozens
of times higher
than the first
war's.

In X690,
the
Second
Caravan
Trade War
came to
an end.



The magic
world realized
it, too, and they
passed into law
the Inter-Guild
Conflict Ban
Treaty.*

They say one
reason for
that was the
introduction of
wizards to the
battlefield.

*A law forbidding guilds from engaging in any war-like behavior against another guild, no matter the reason.



*Six years
later, in
the year
X696...*



*And for a
time, that
brought a
period of
relative peace
to the magical
world.*



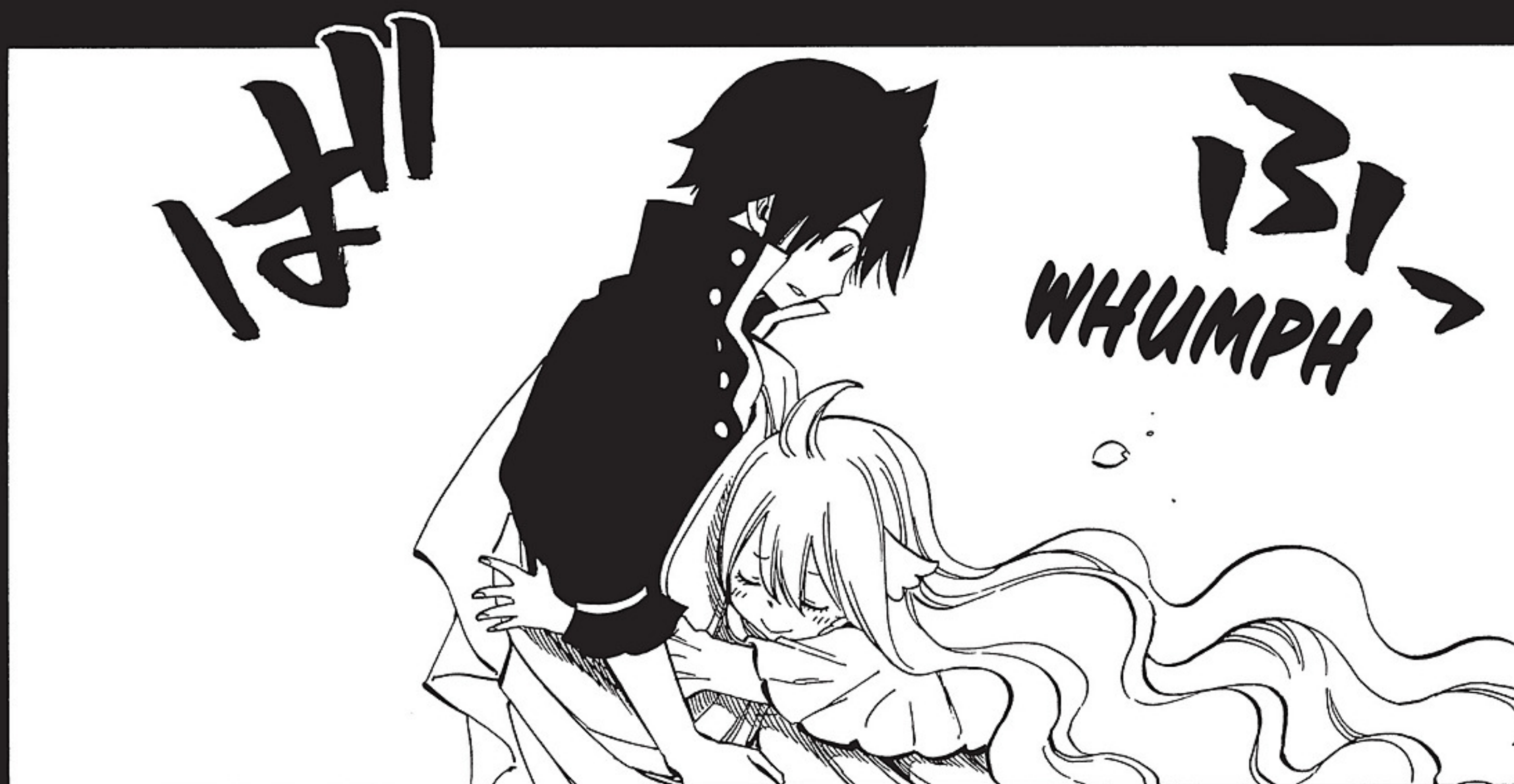
*...I came
across
that same
young man
again.*



*It's you!
The black
wizard from
so long
ago!*



Mavis...?



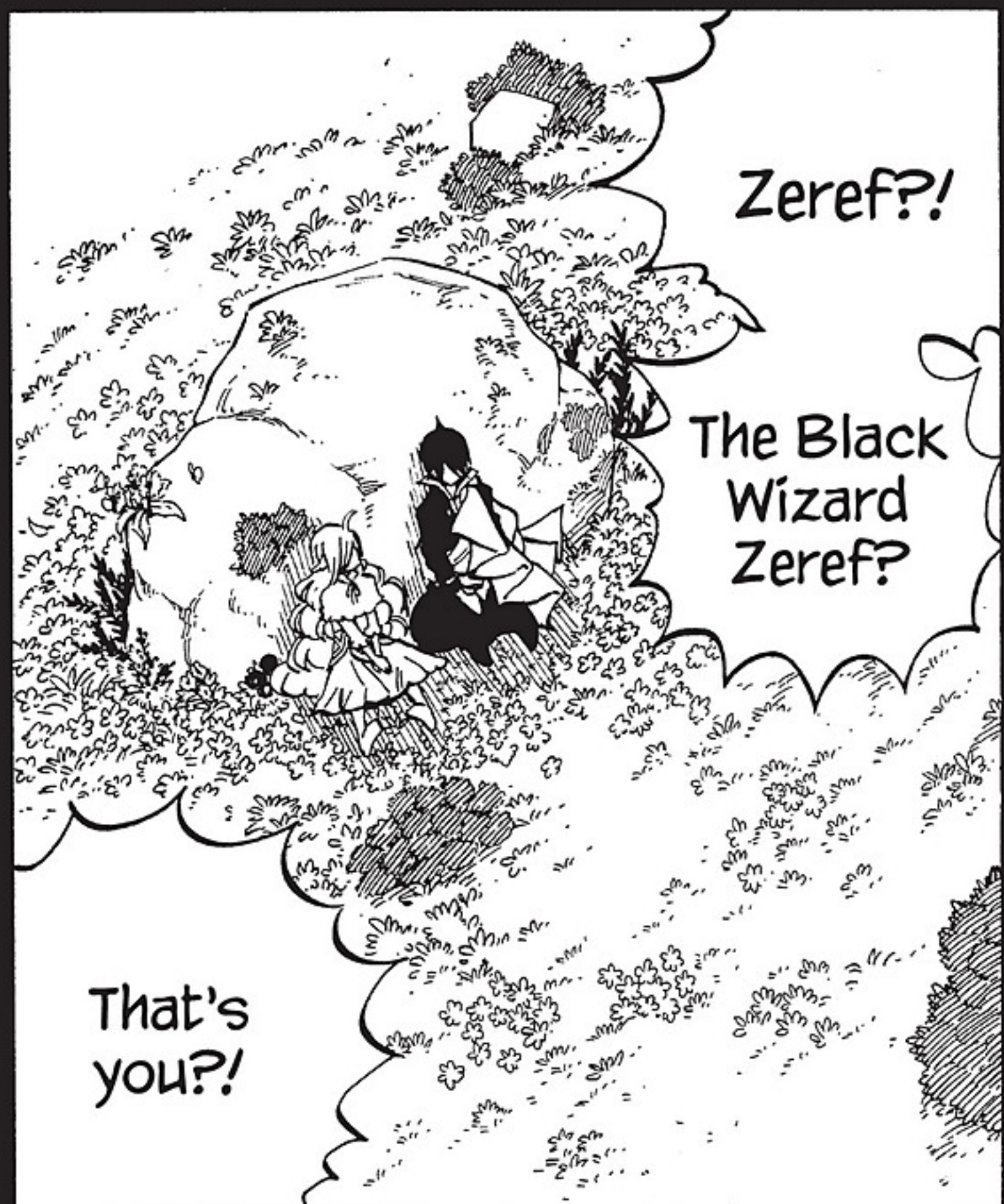


That's why I
didn't want
to mention
my name.



Yeah... Well... I
guess it's been
about that long.

But people
say Zeref is
300 years
old...



Zeref?!

The Black
Wizard
Zeref?

That's
you?!

That
can't be
true!

Actually,
those are
probably
true.

Bad
rumors?

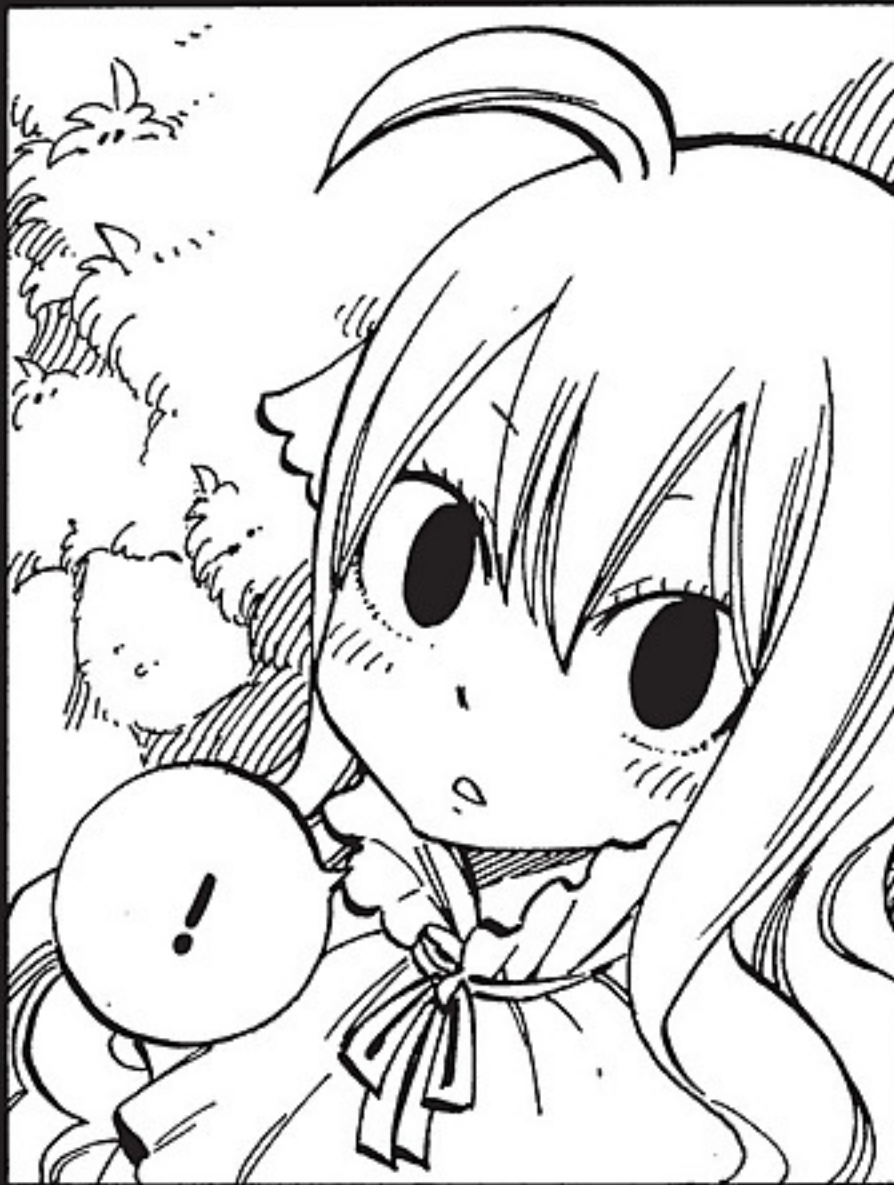
You're
nothing like
the rumors
say!





So I don't
believe a
single word
of those
rumors!

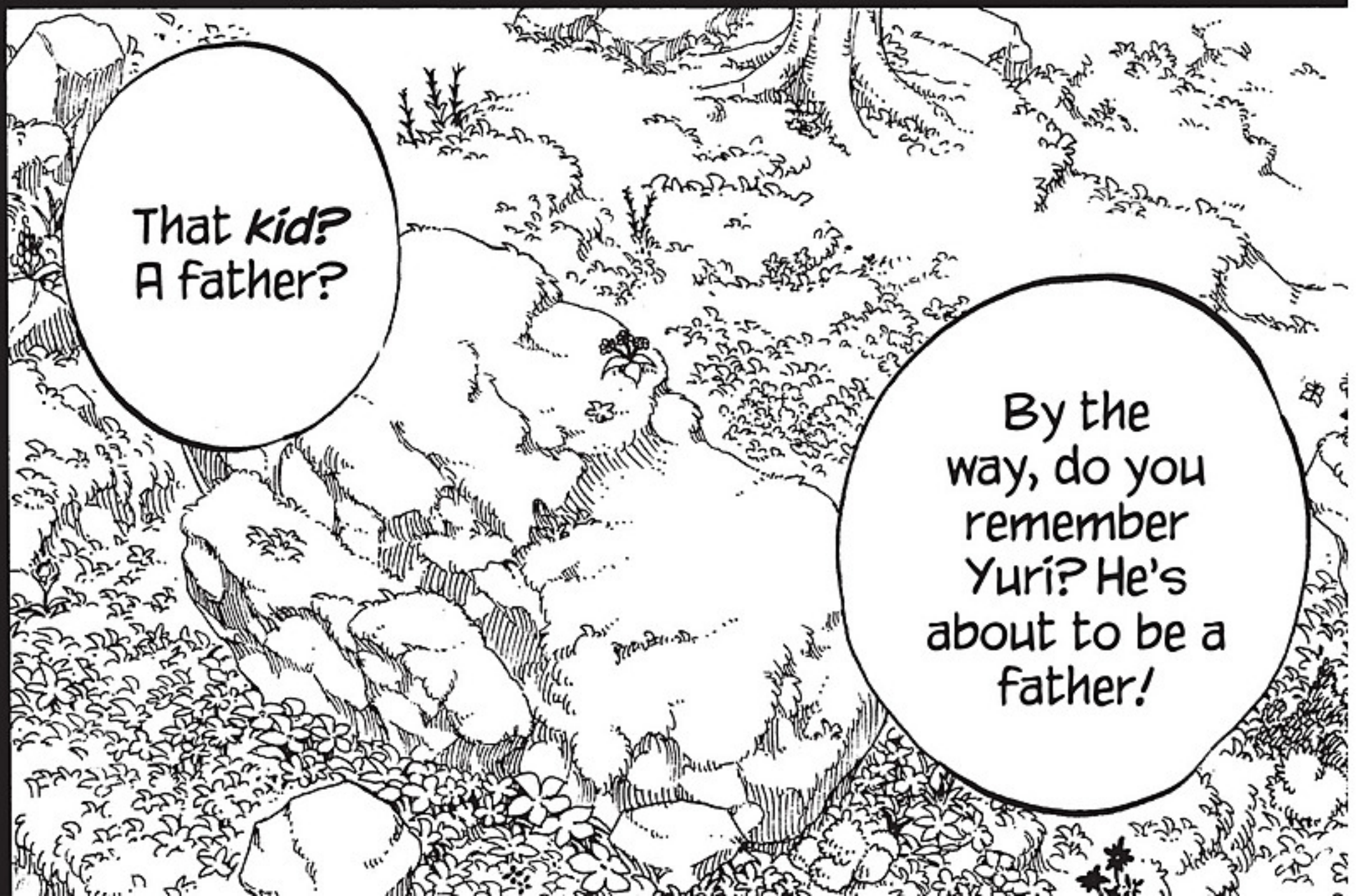
You've
got such
kind eyes!



Well, it
has been ten
years, you
know.

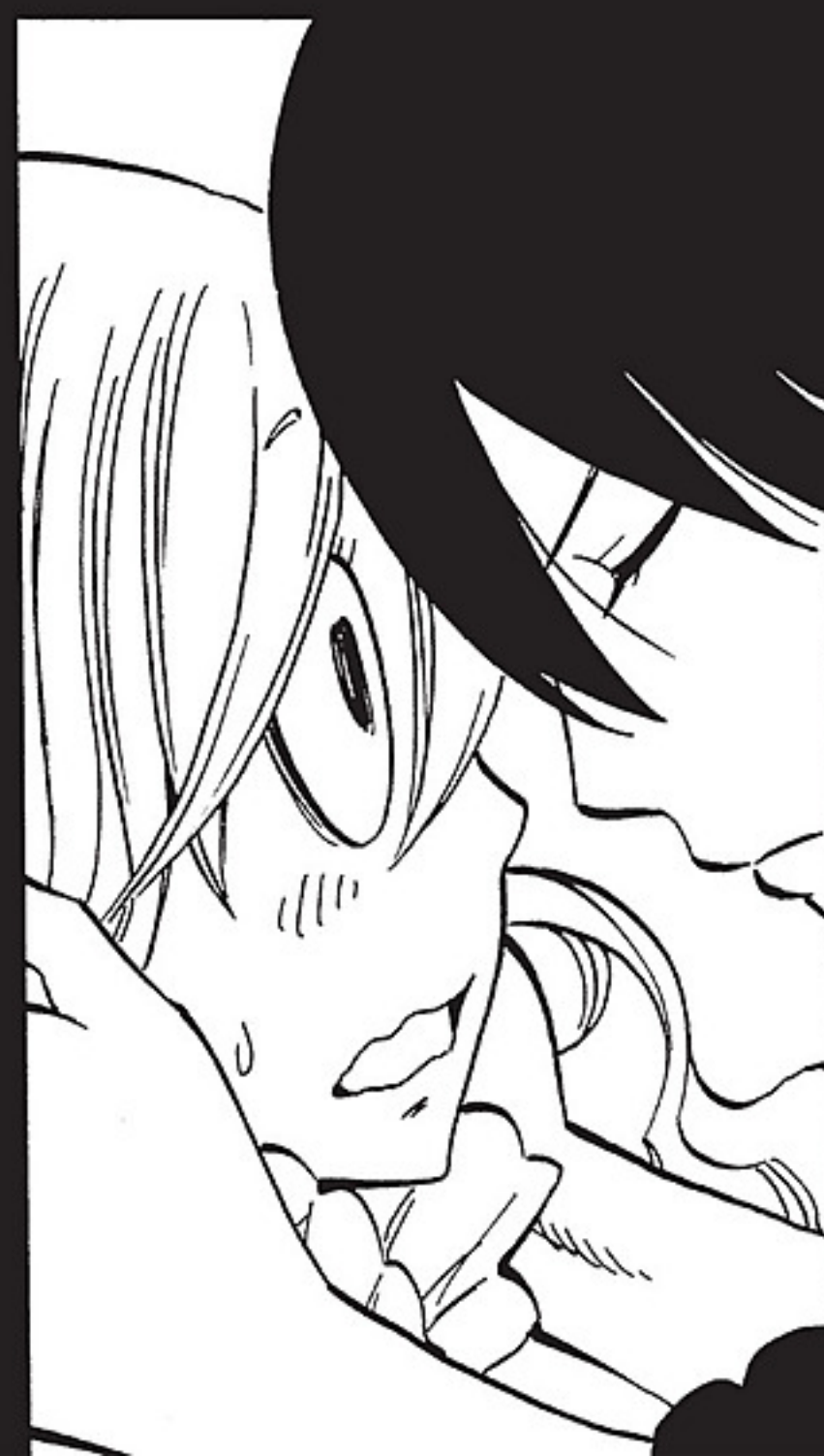
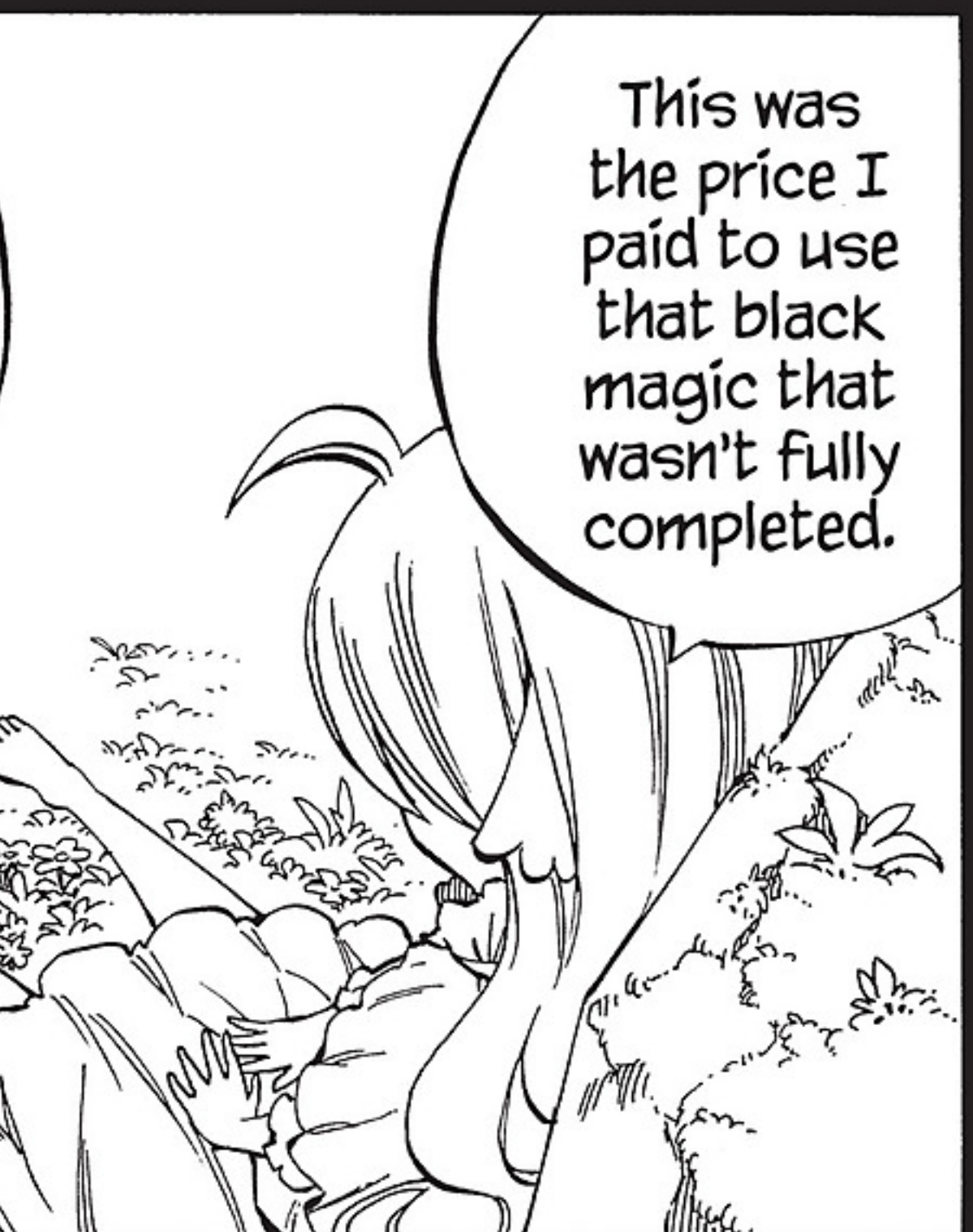


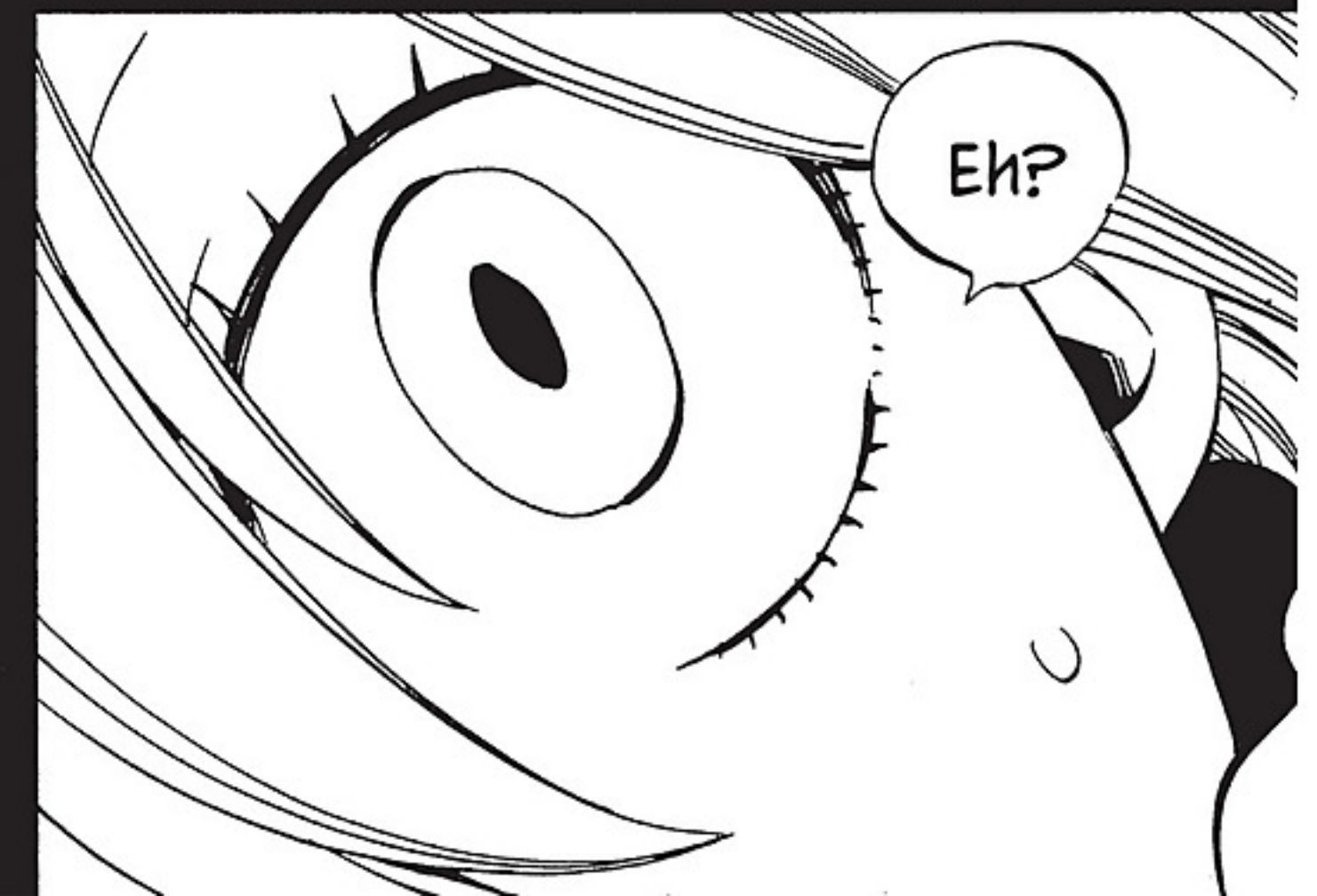
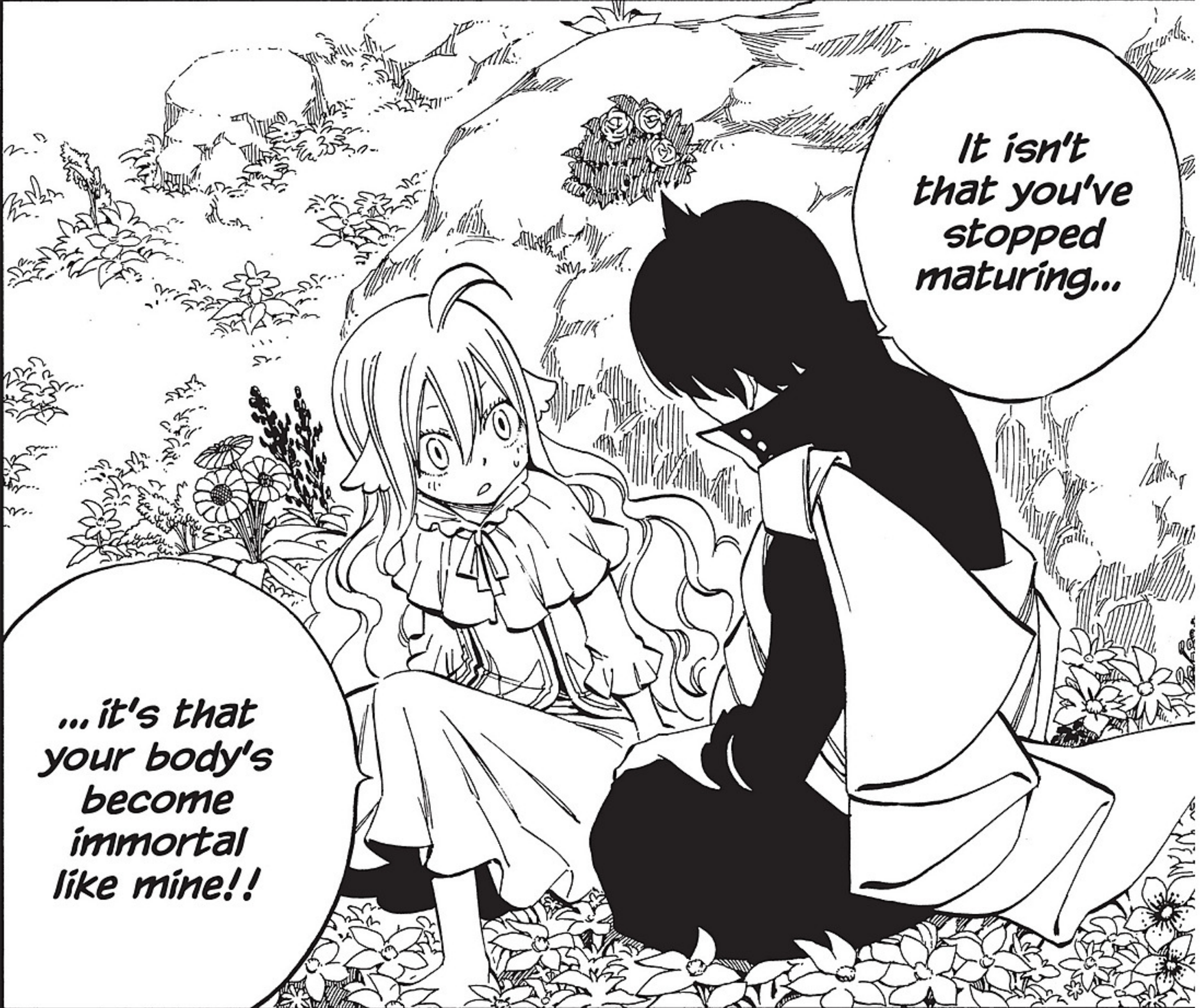
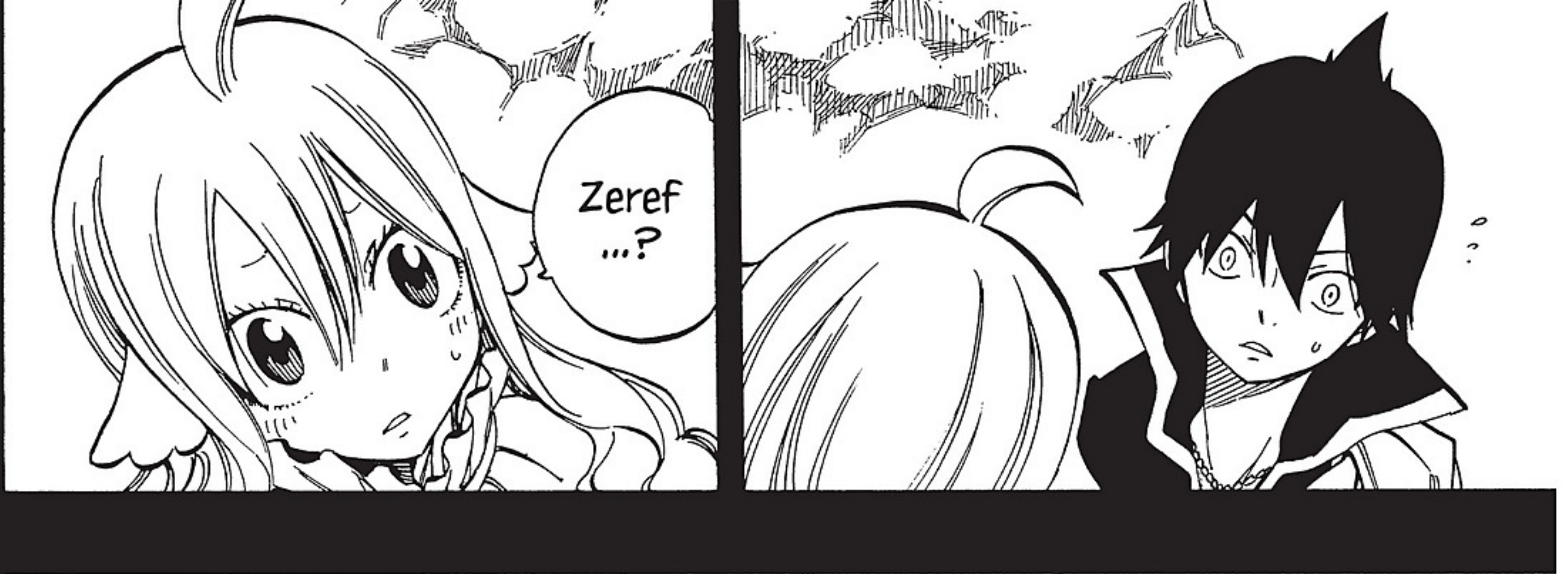
You're
a little
too open-
hearted.



That *kid*?
A father?

By the
way, do you
remember
Yuri? He's
about to be a
father!







...aren't dying...

Th-The people... around me...



It must be a mistake!

The more you d the lives hers dear, more you eal their lives...

It's Ankhselam's curse!



War dulls people's respect for life.

It may have diminished the value you place on others' lives...

That may be true at present.

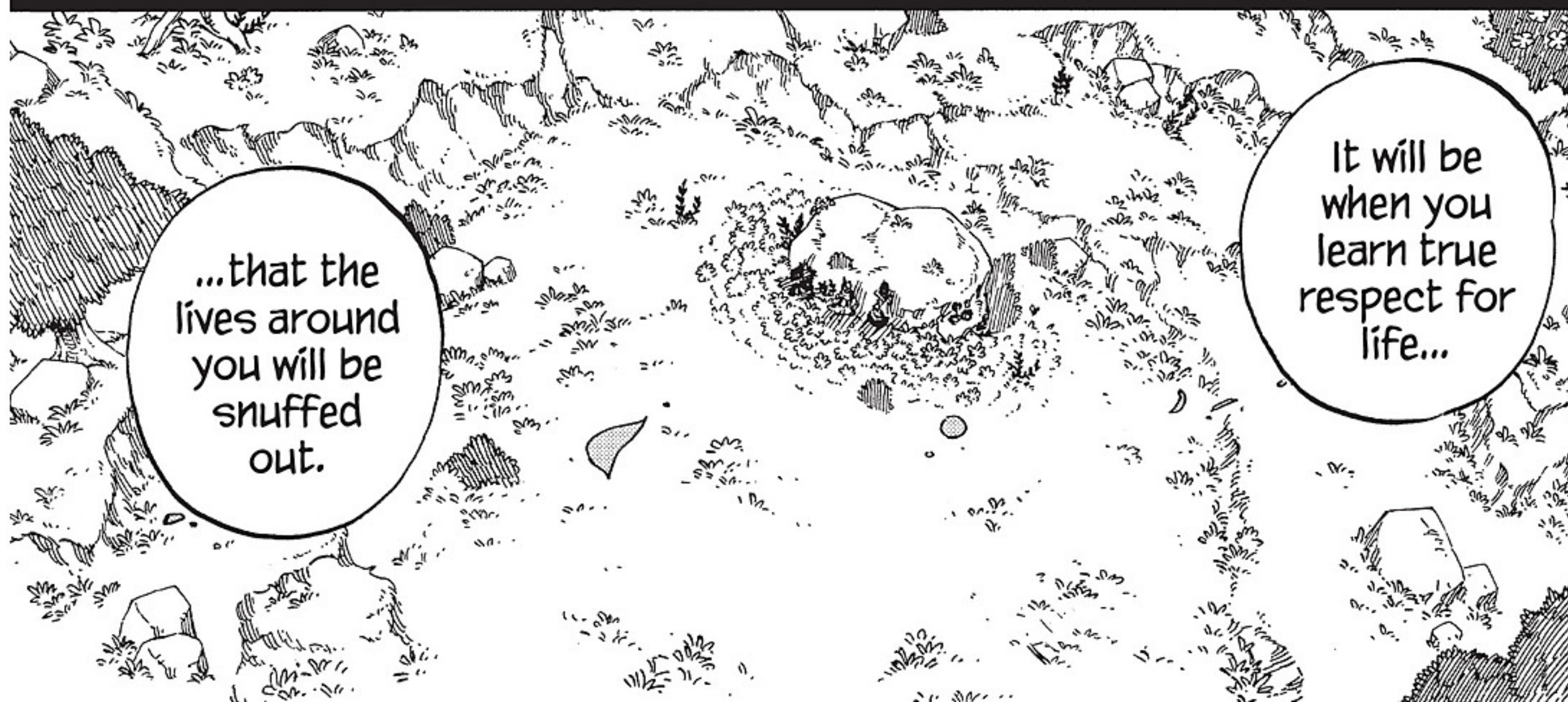
I see... You were in a war not too long ago, huh?



You don't know how precious life really is.

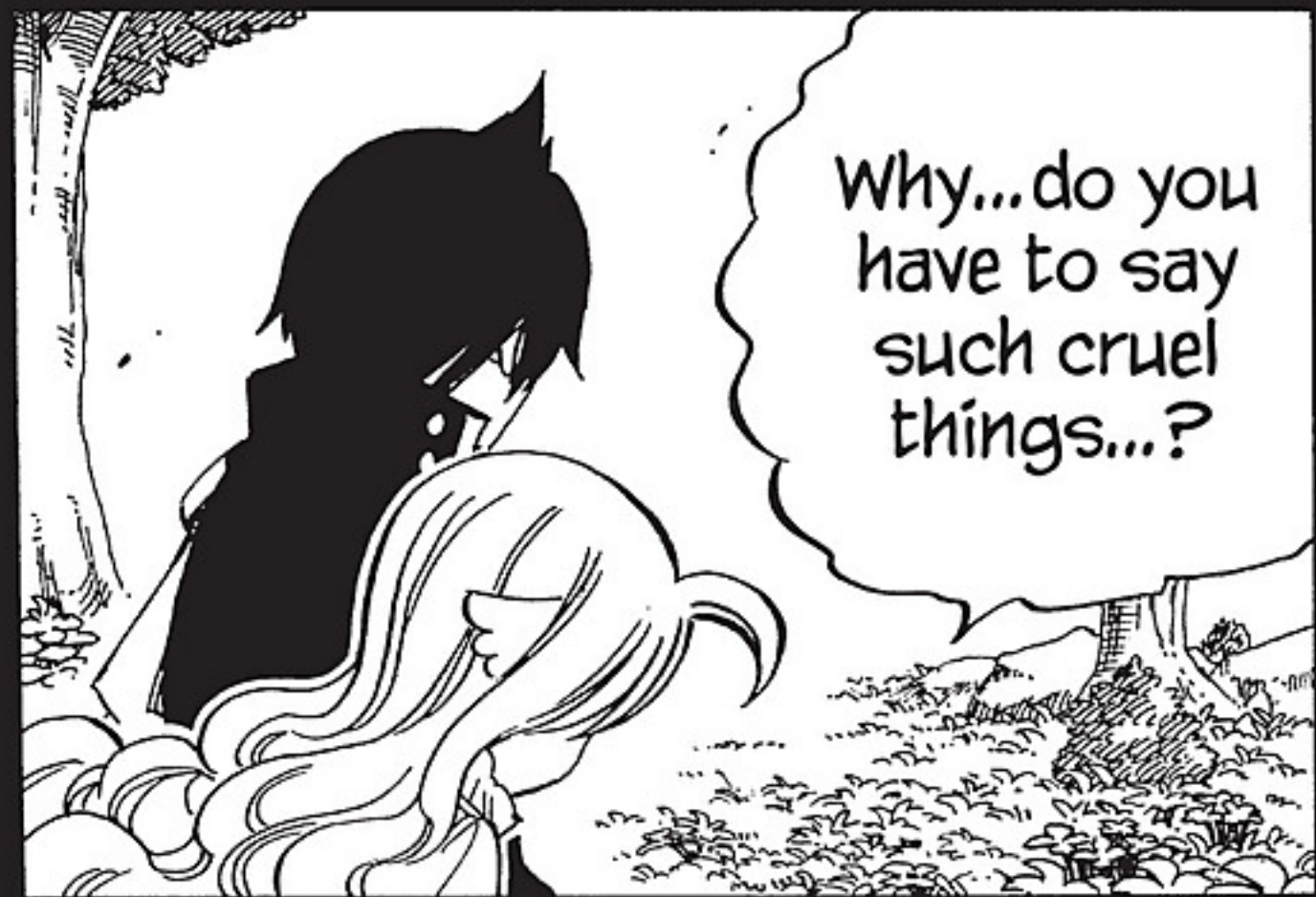
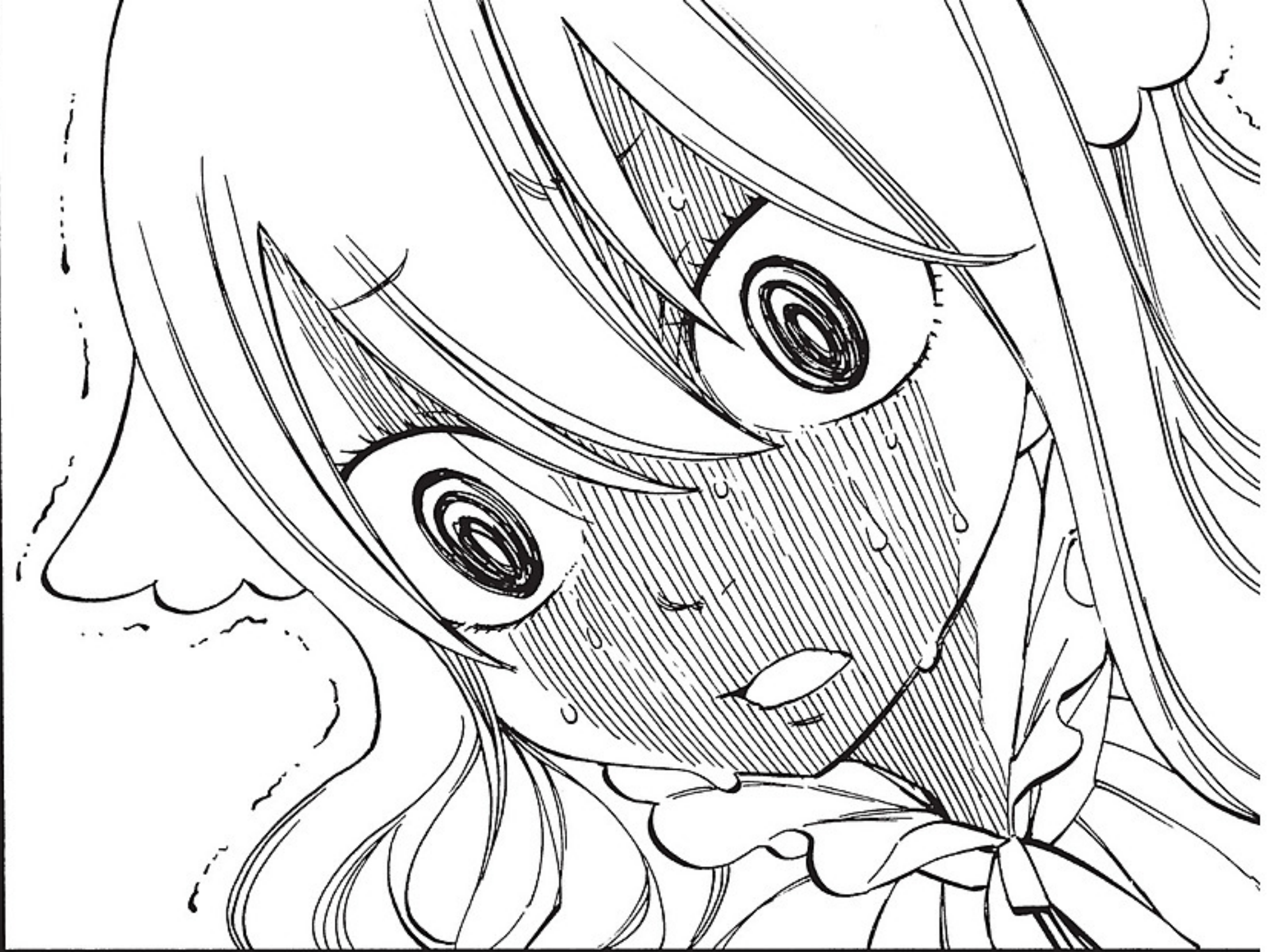


No! I... I still...

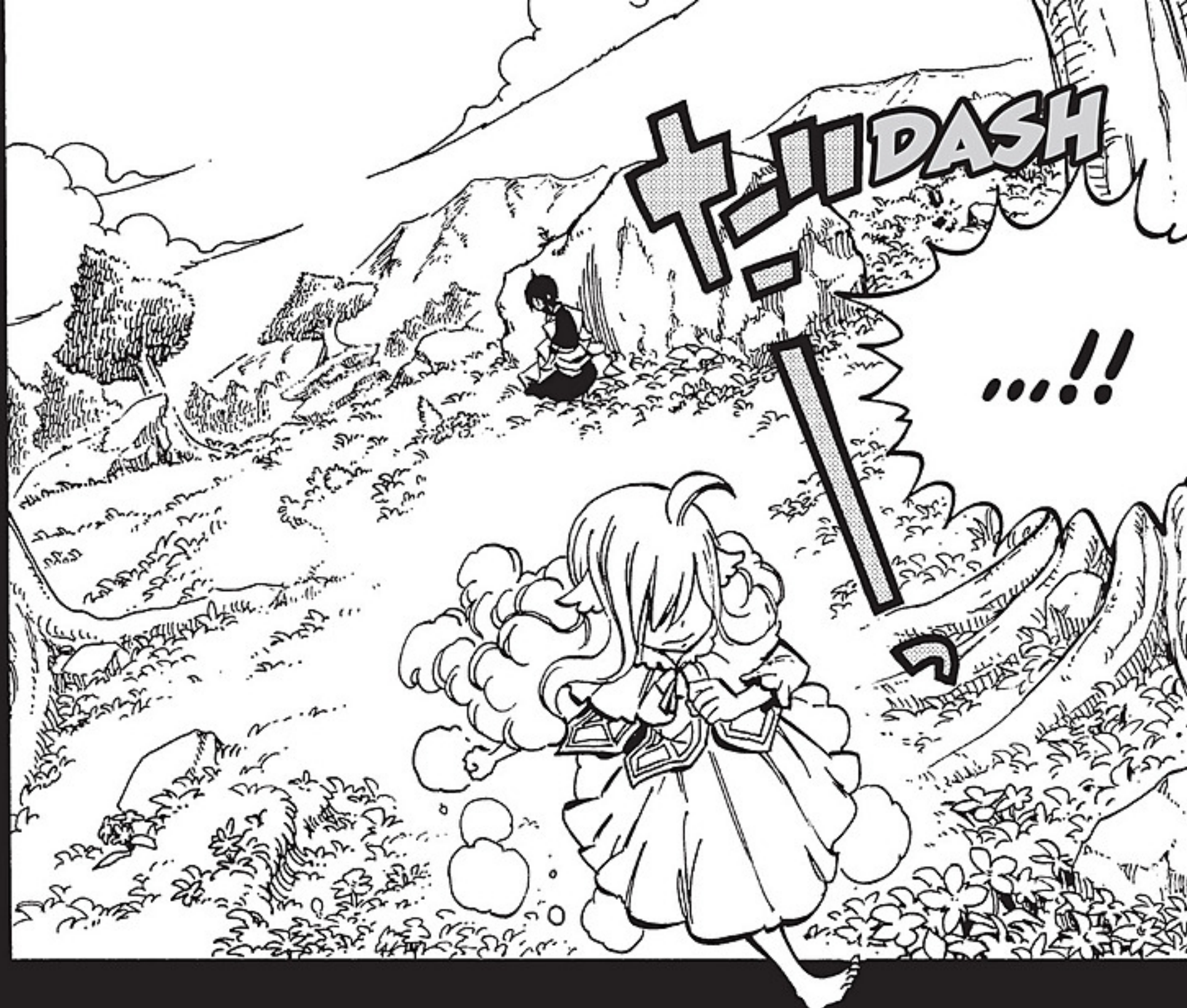


...that the lives around you will be snuffed out.

It will be when you learn true respect for life...



I was
right
about
her.



She *does*
possess
the correct
qualities to
walk by my
side.



I
can't
believe
it!!



I don't
believe it!



FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル



Chapter 450: The Only One in All the World

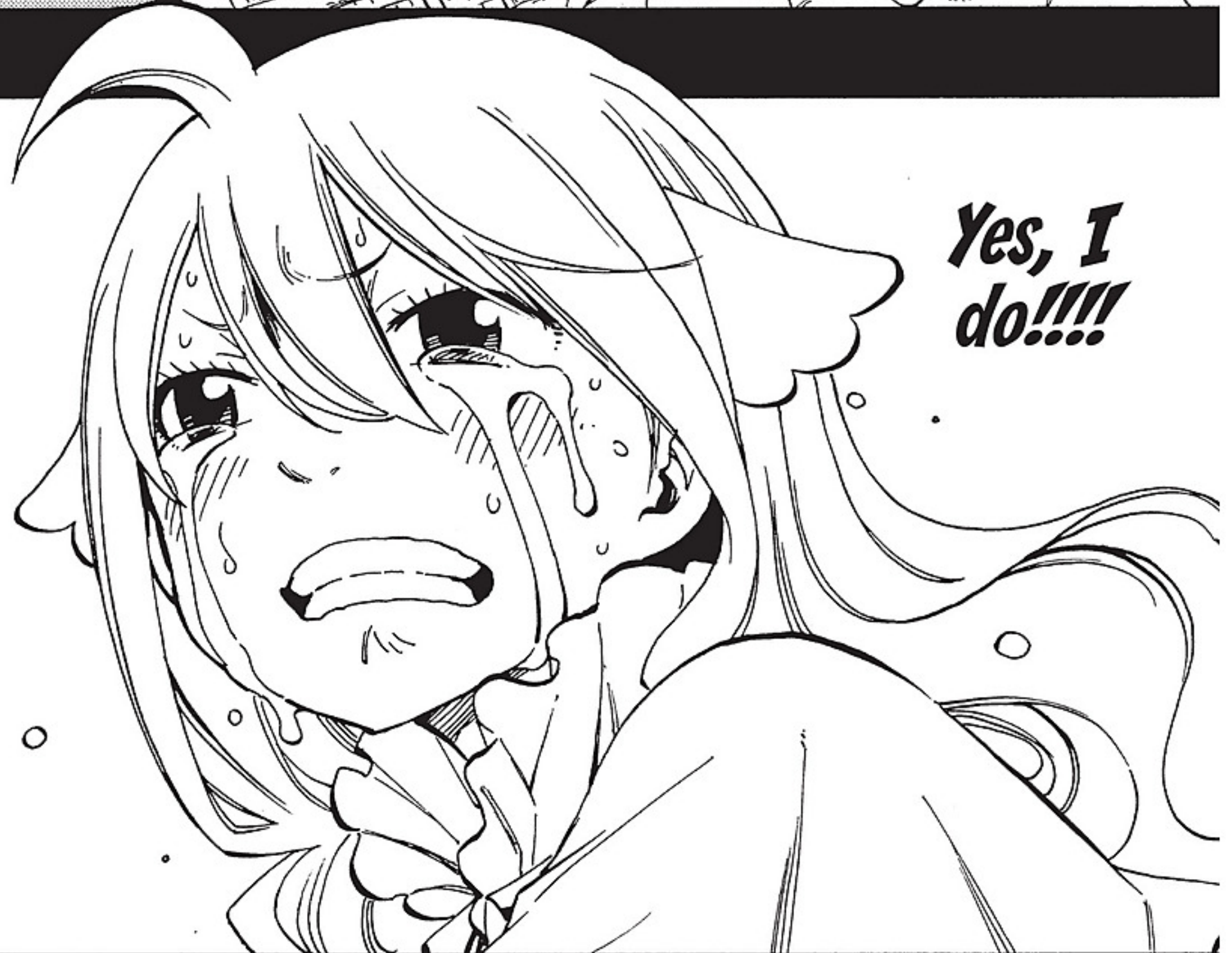


You don't
know how
precious
life really
is.



**LIFE IS
IMPORTANT
TO ME! IT'S
PRECIOUS!
I KNOW ITS
WORTH!**

**The
lives of the
friends I
love are
precious to
me...**



**Yes, I
do!!!!**



**I know
it!!!!**

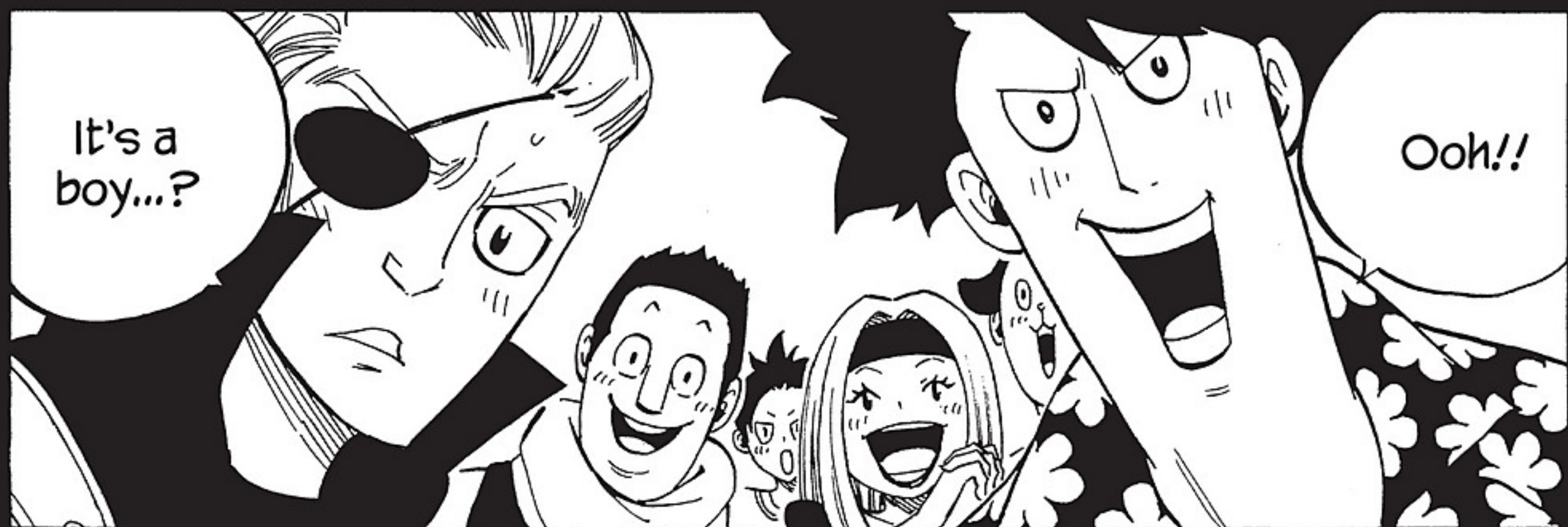
Ooh!!

**WAAAH
WAAAH
WAAAH**

Yuri,
you're
a dad!!!!



X696, the
birth of
Yuri's son,
Makarov.

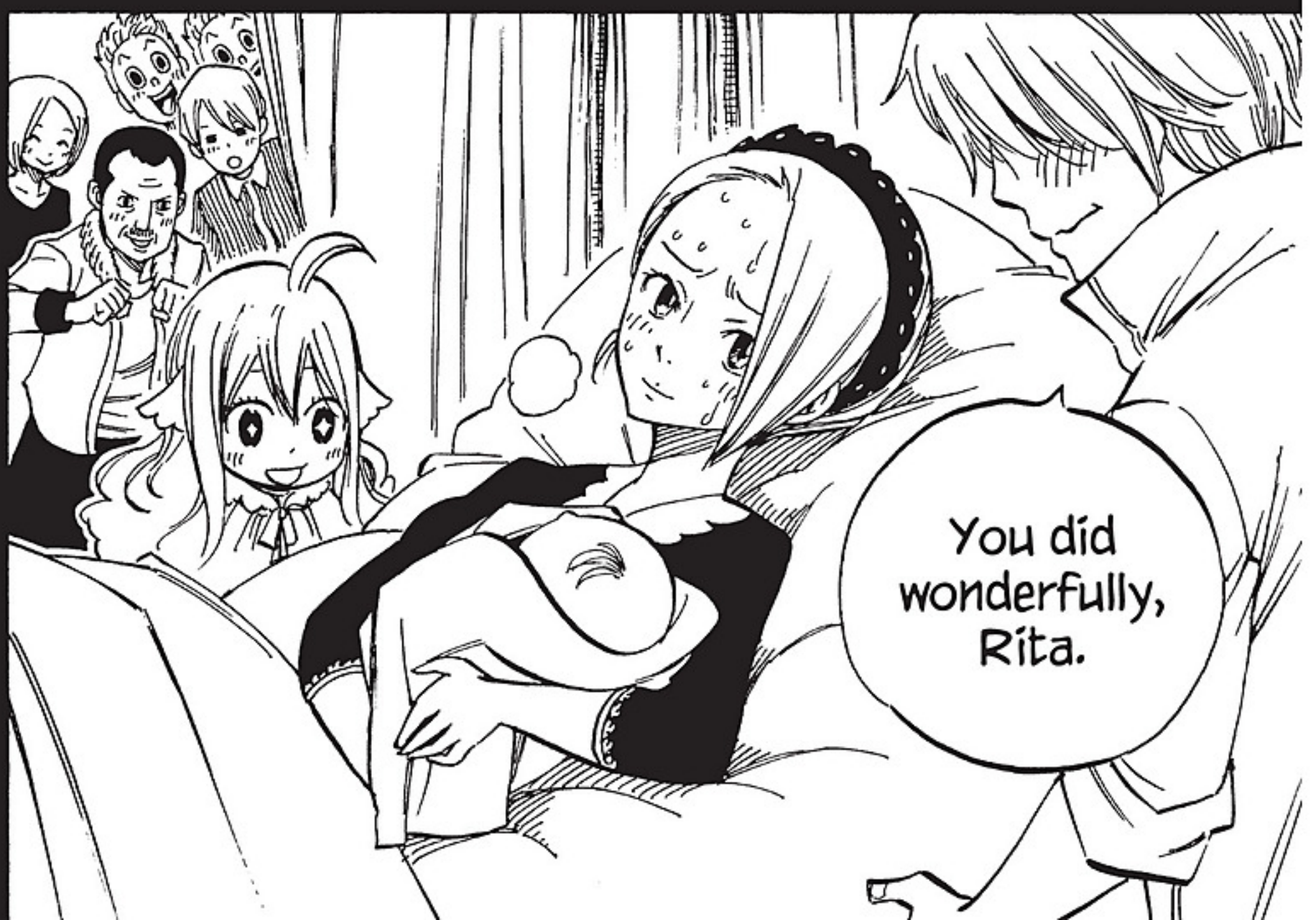


It's a
boy...?

Ooh!!



He's so
cute!



You did
wonderfully,
Rita.

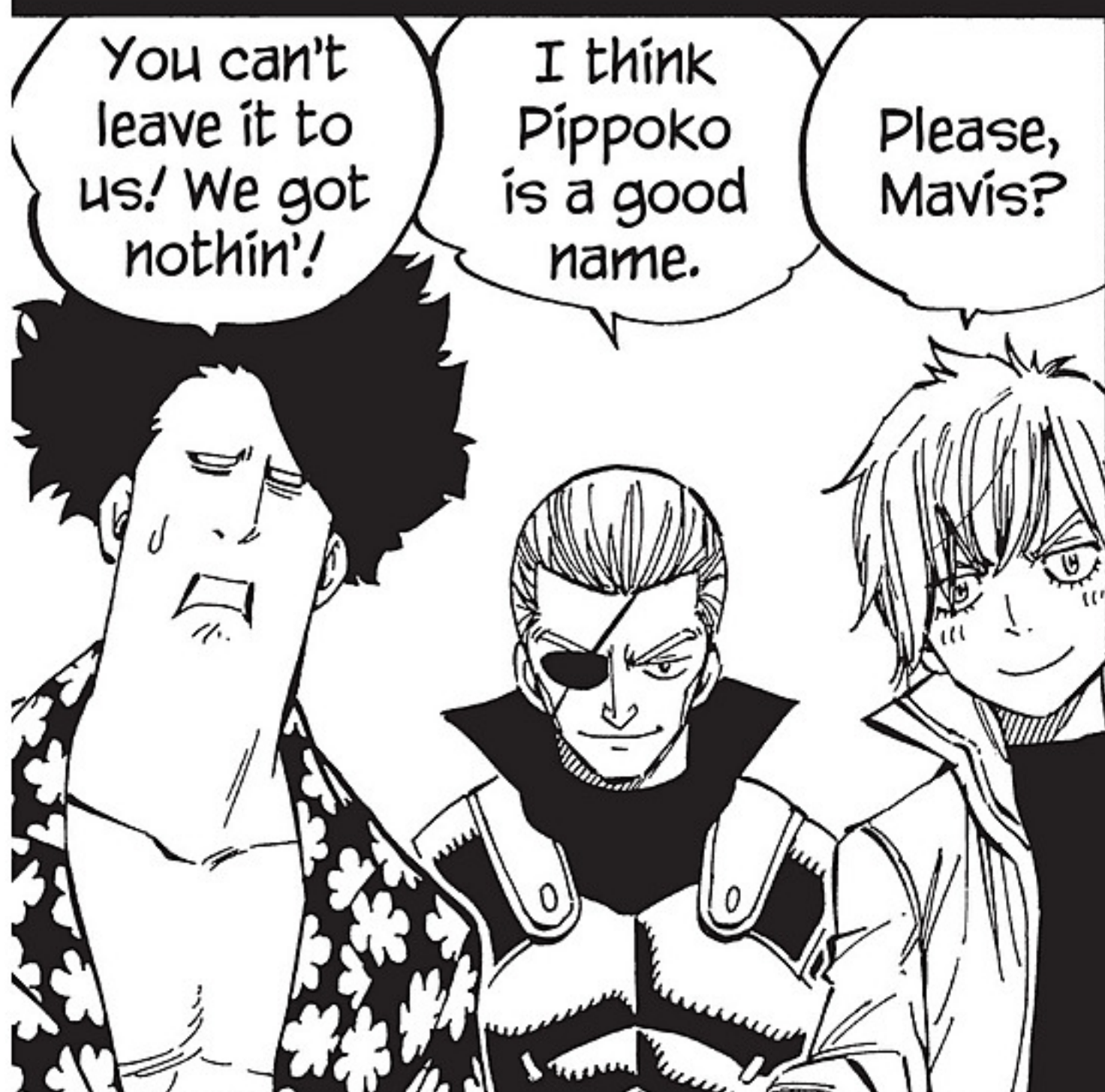


I want my child to have the love of everyone in this guild as he grows up...



What can I say? Rita had her heart set on it.

I don't see why she had to give birth inside the guild hall.



You can't leave it to us! We got nothin'!

I think Pippoko is a good name.

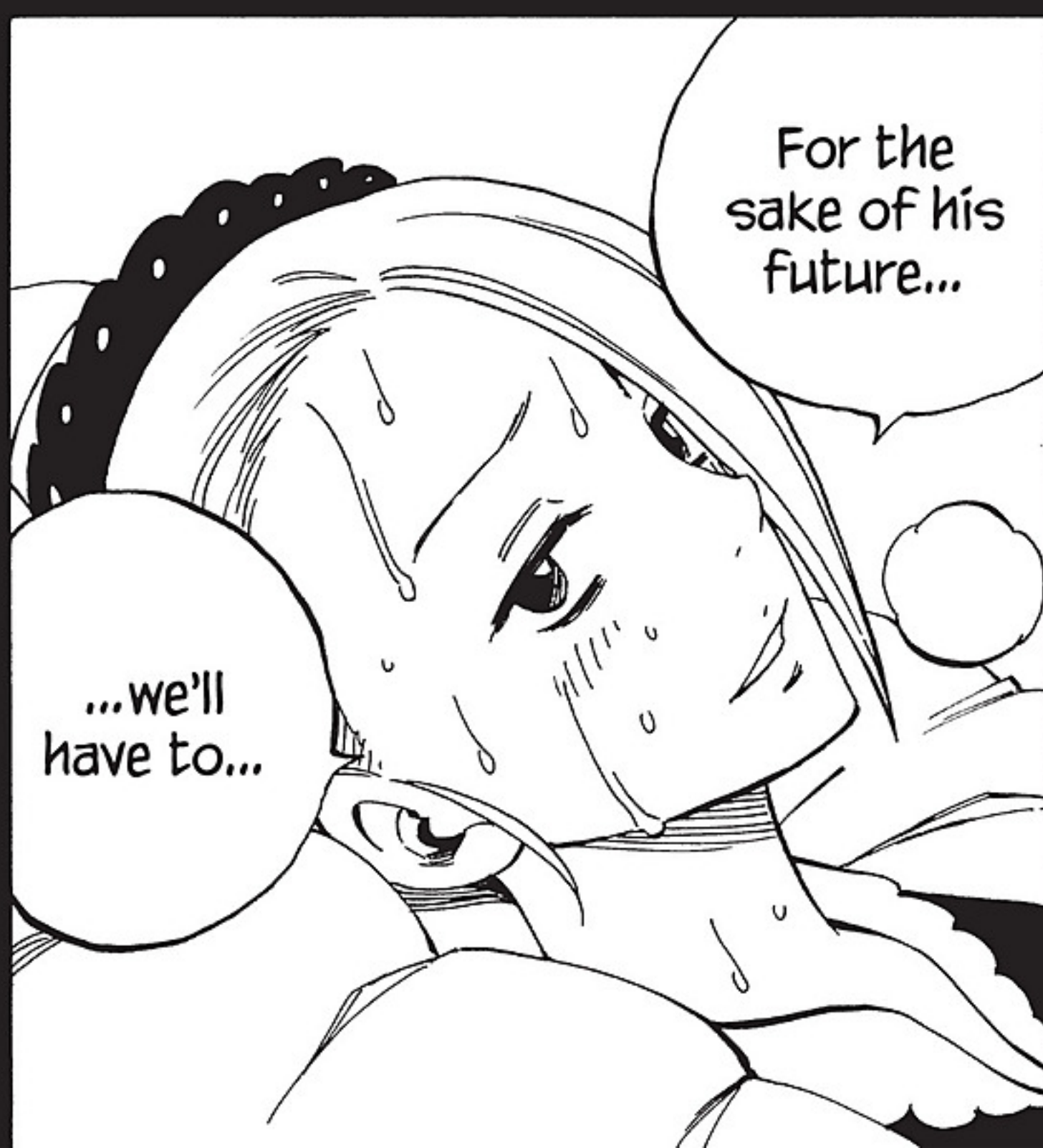
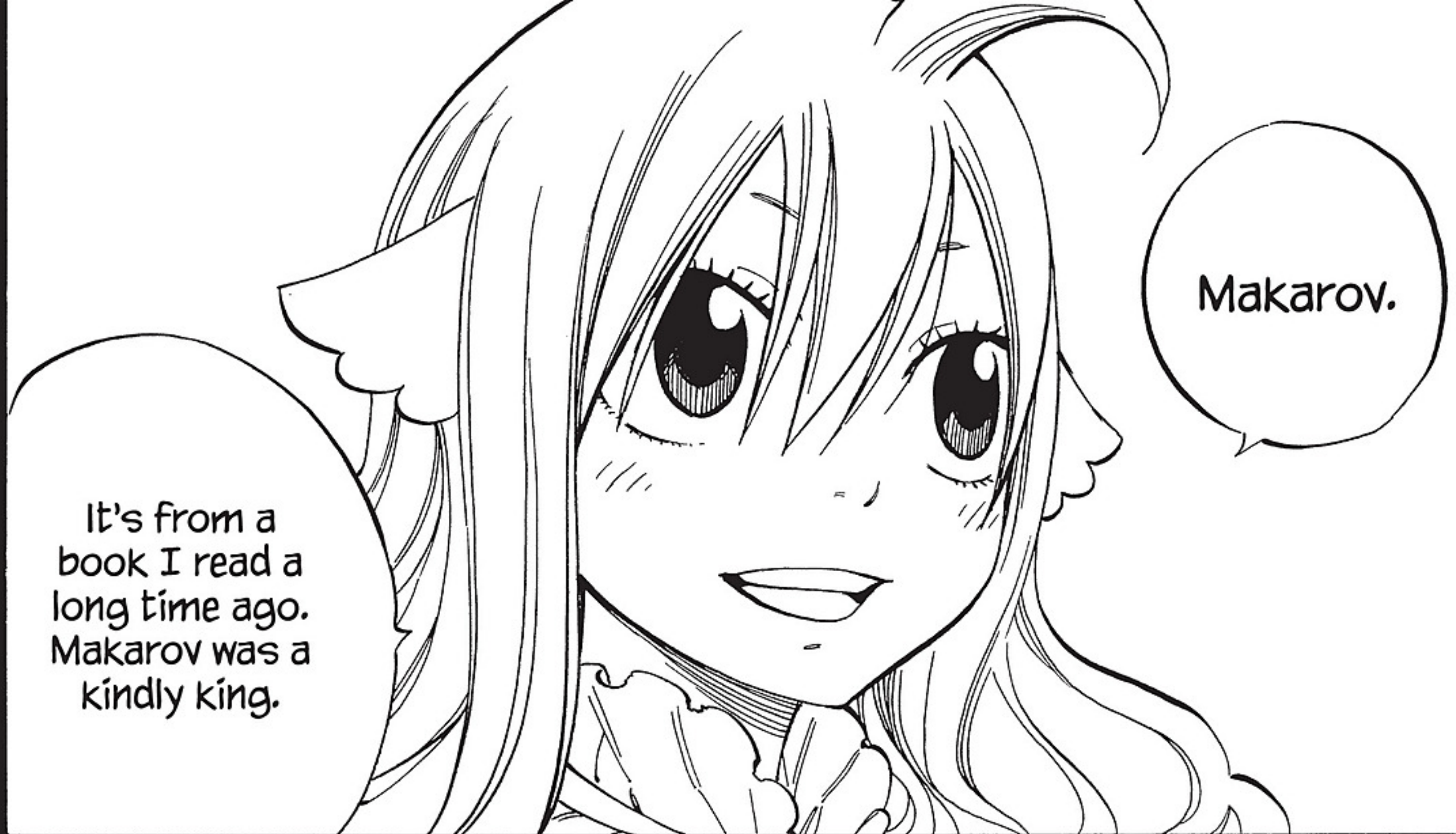
Please, Mavis?



Wh-What?! Me?!

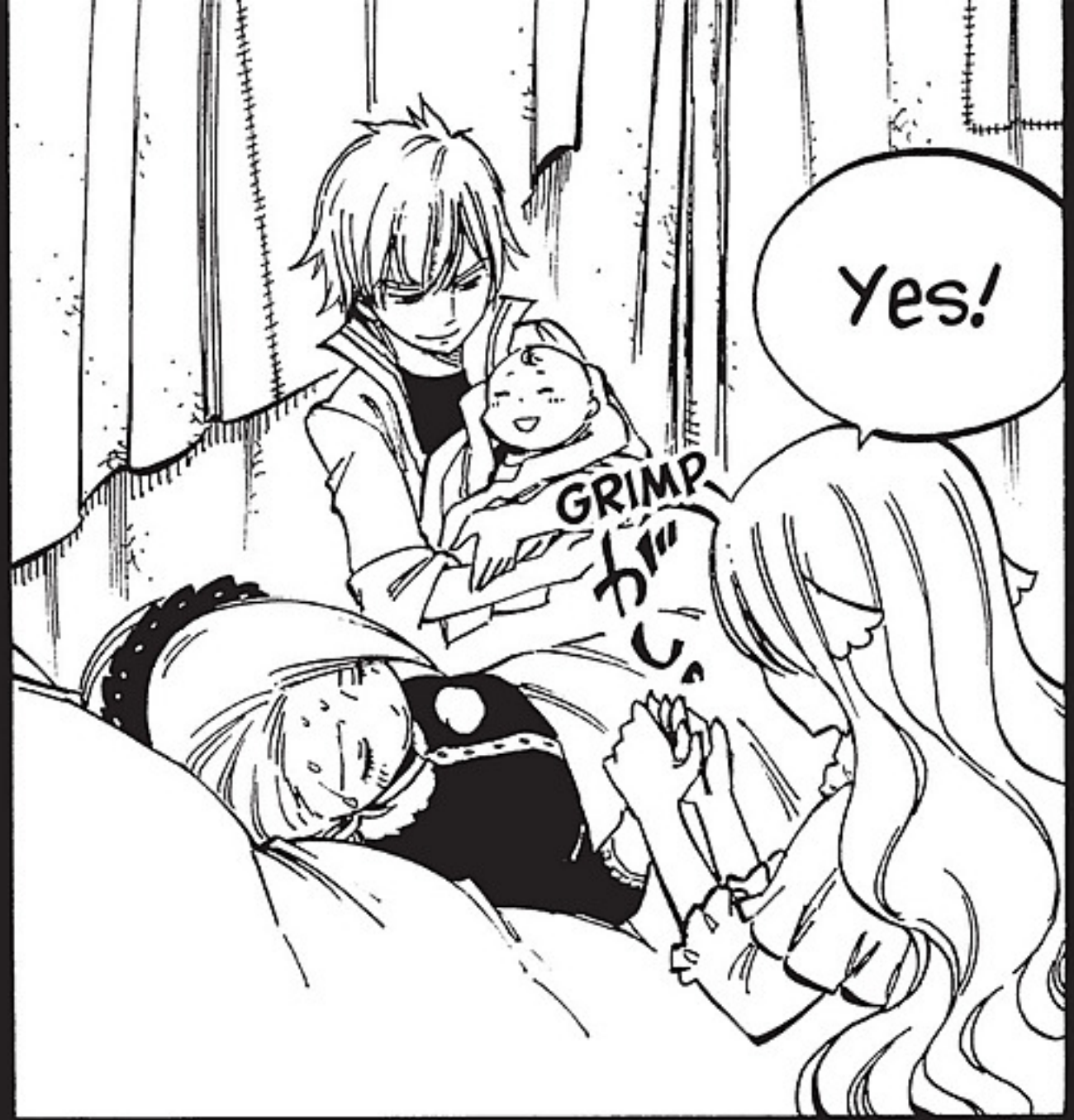
We were hoping you'd name him, Master.







We'll all
just have to
join hands
and...



Yes!

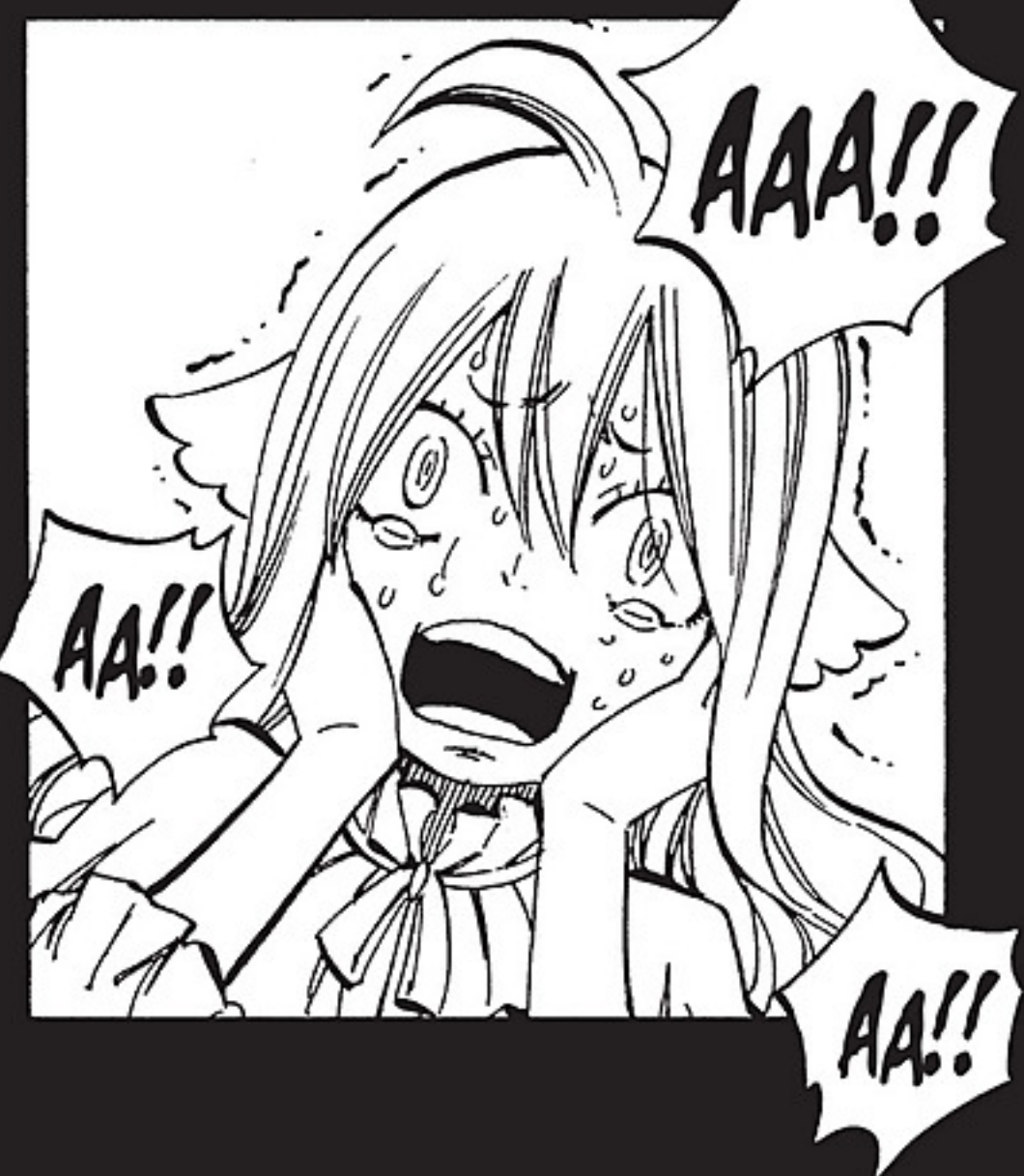
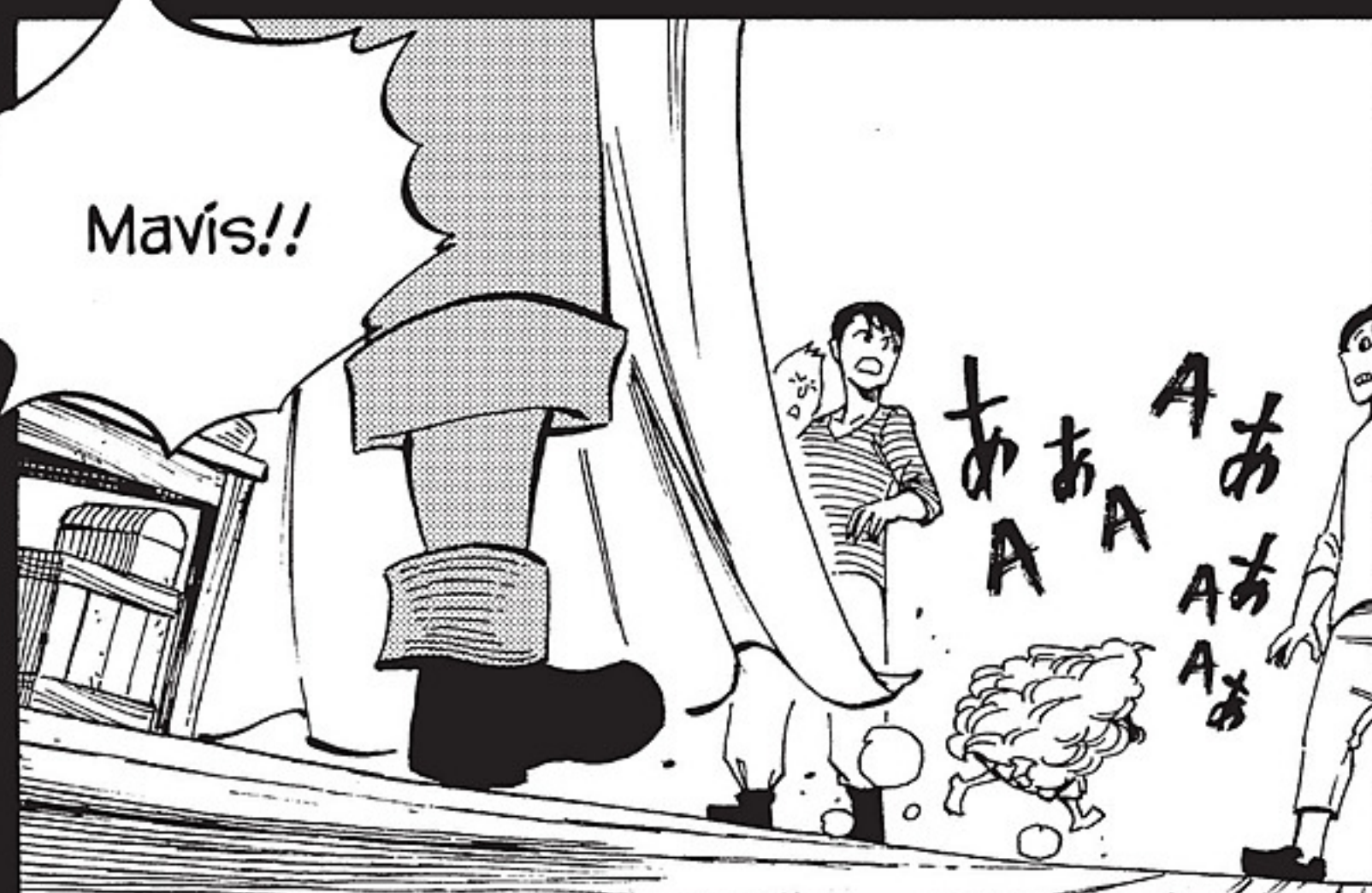
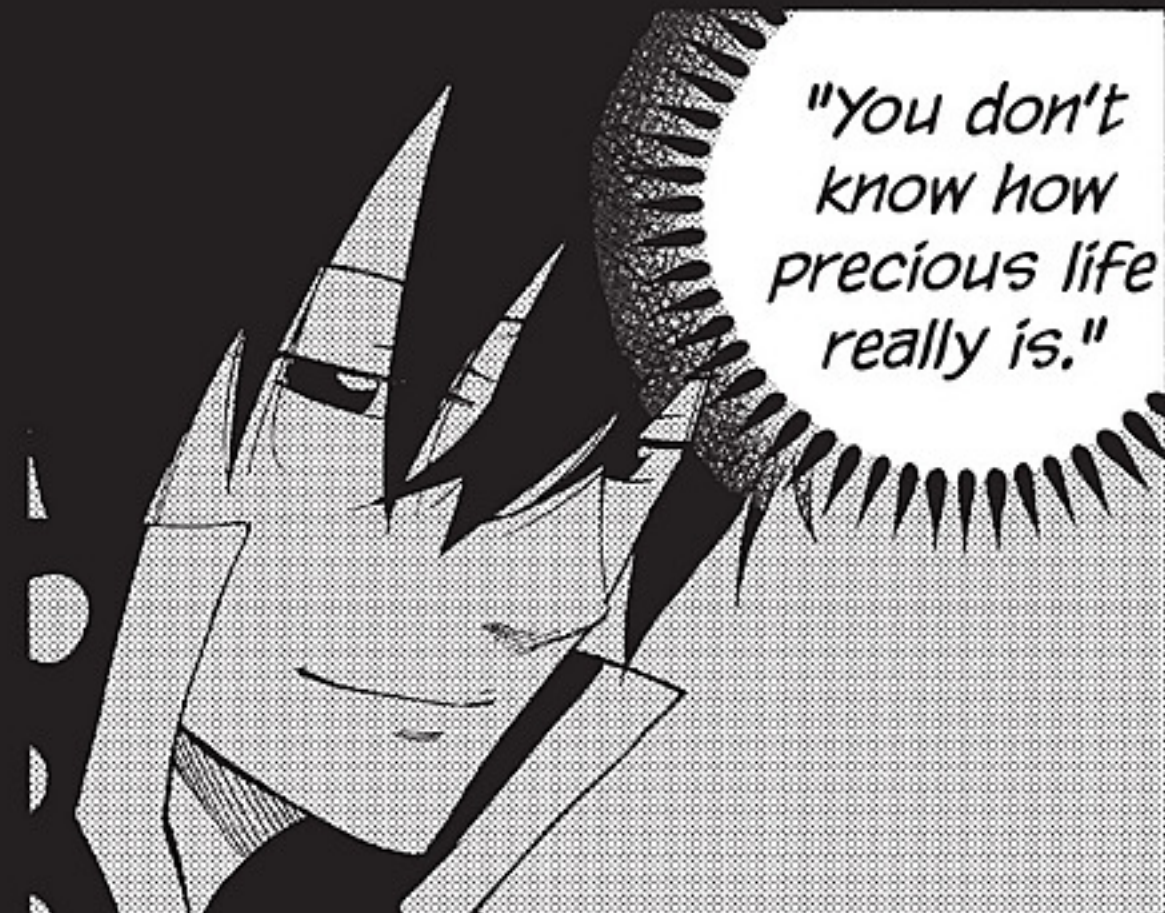
GRIMP
ひい

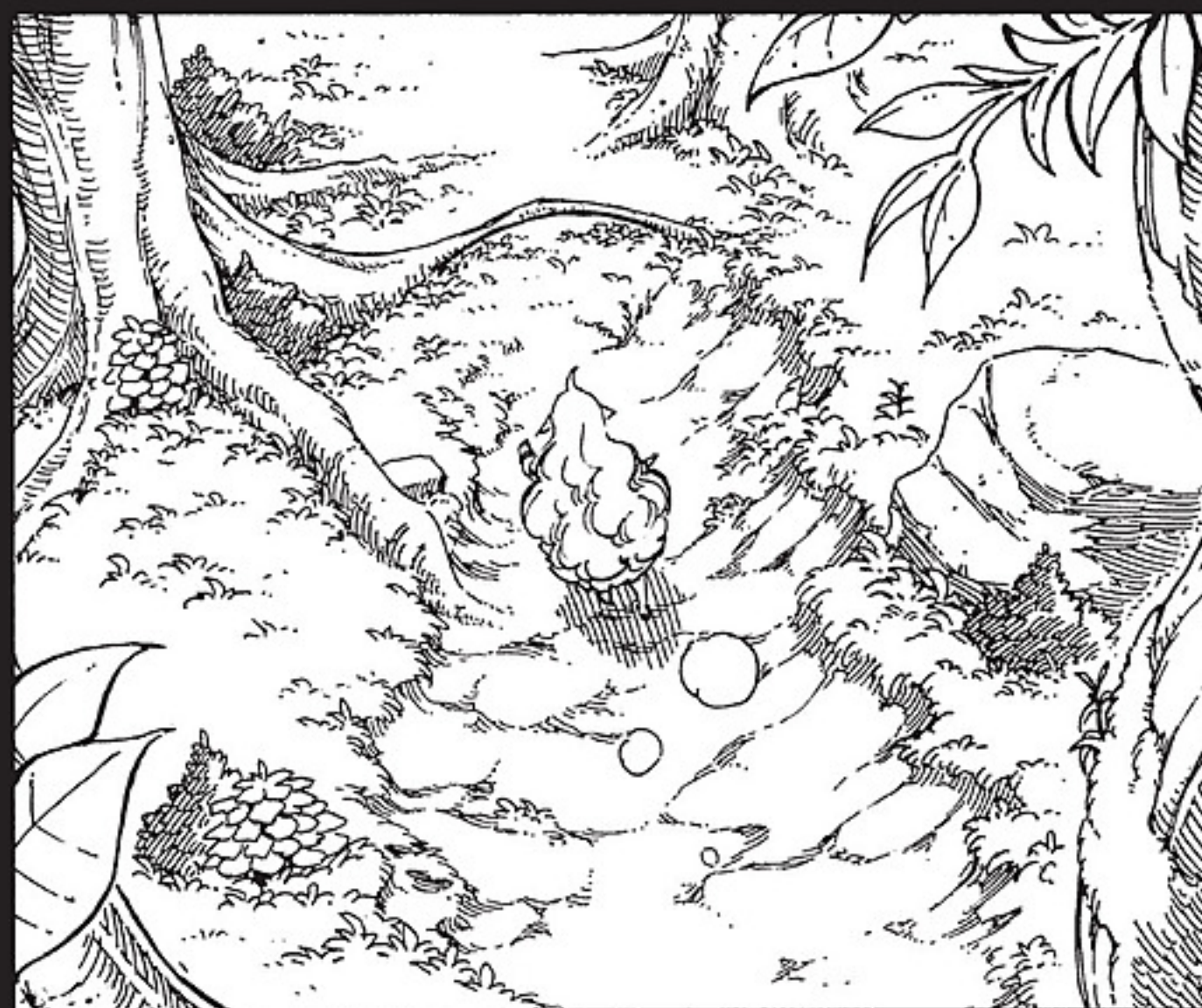
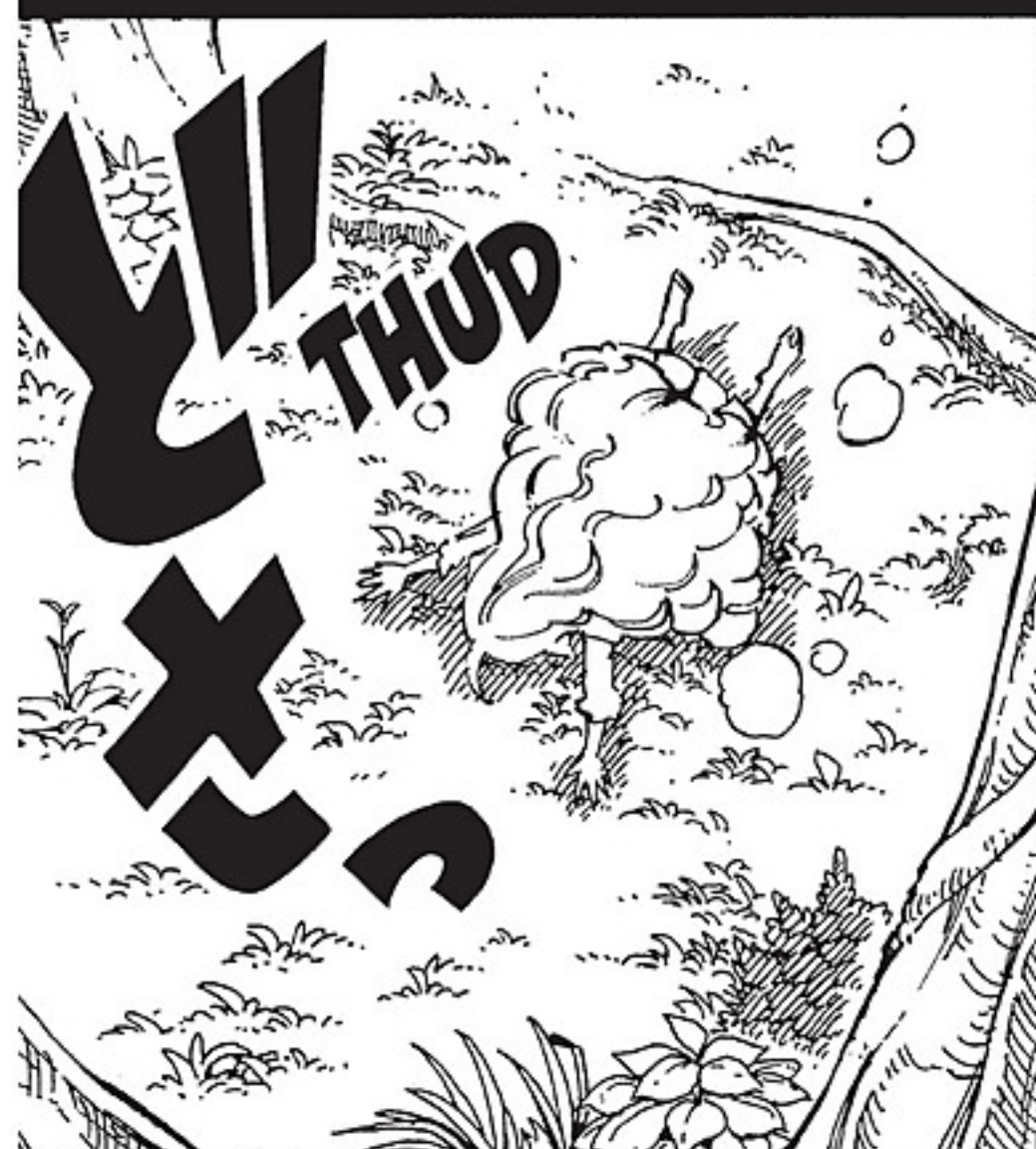
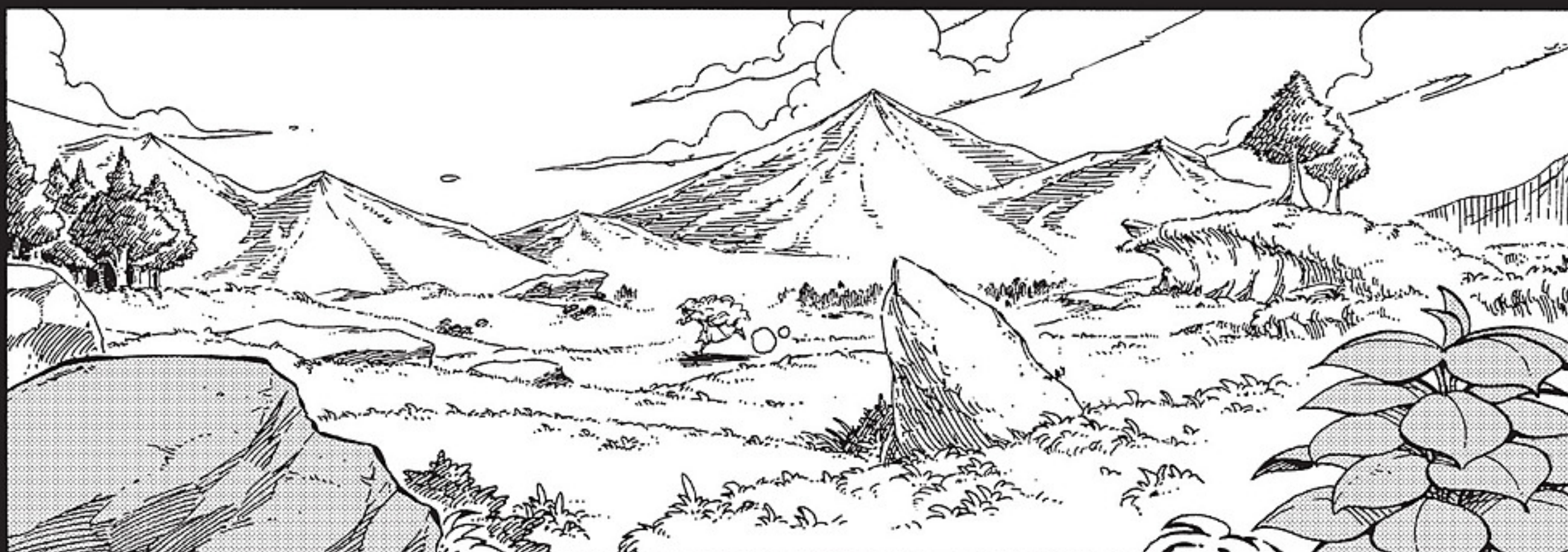


Rita!!
Hey, what's
wrong?!

The delivery
took too
much out
of her!

Rita!
Ritaaaaa!!







If you
love no
one, no
lives
will be
taken.

It's a
curse of
contradiction.
The more you
love, the
more lives
you steal.



*...and
even
humans.*



*...and
strips
the life
from
animals
...*



*It
dries
up
trees...*



*I just
wandered,
direction-
less.*



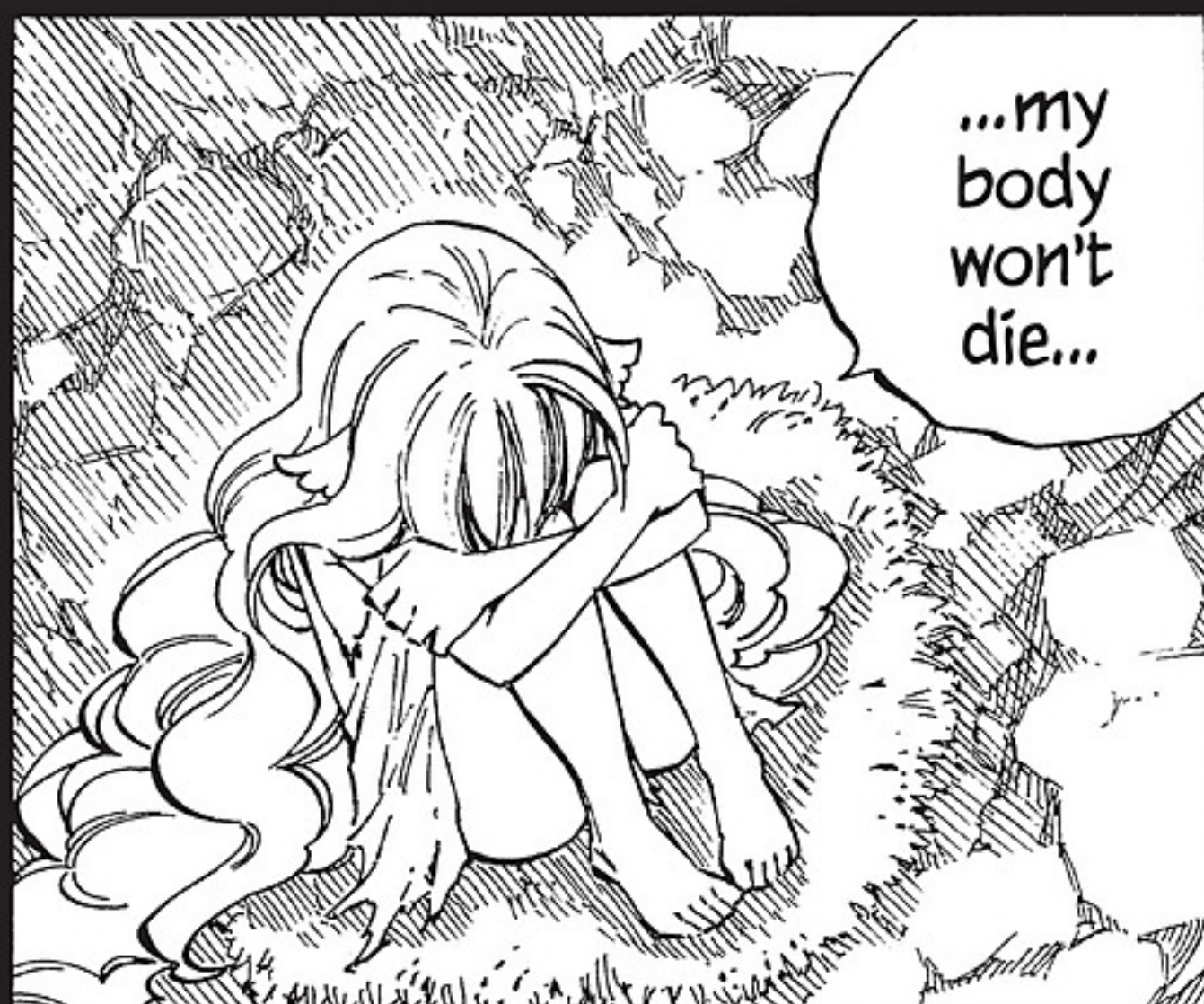
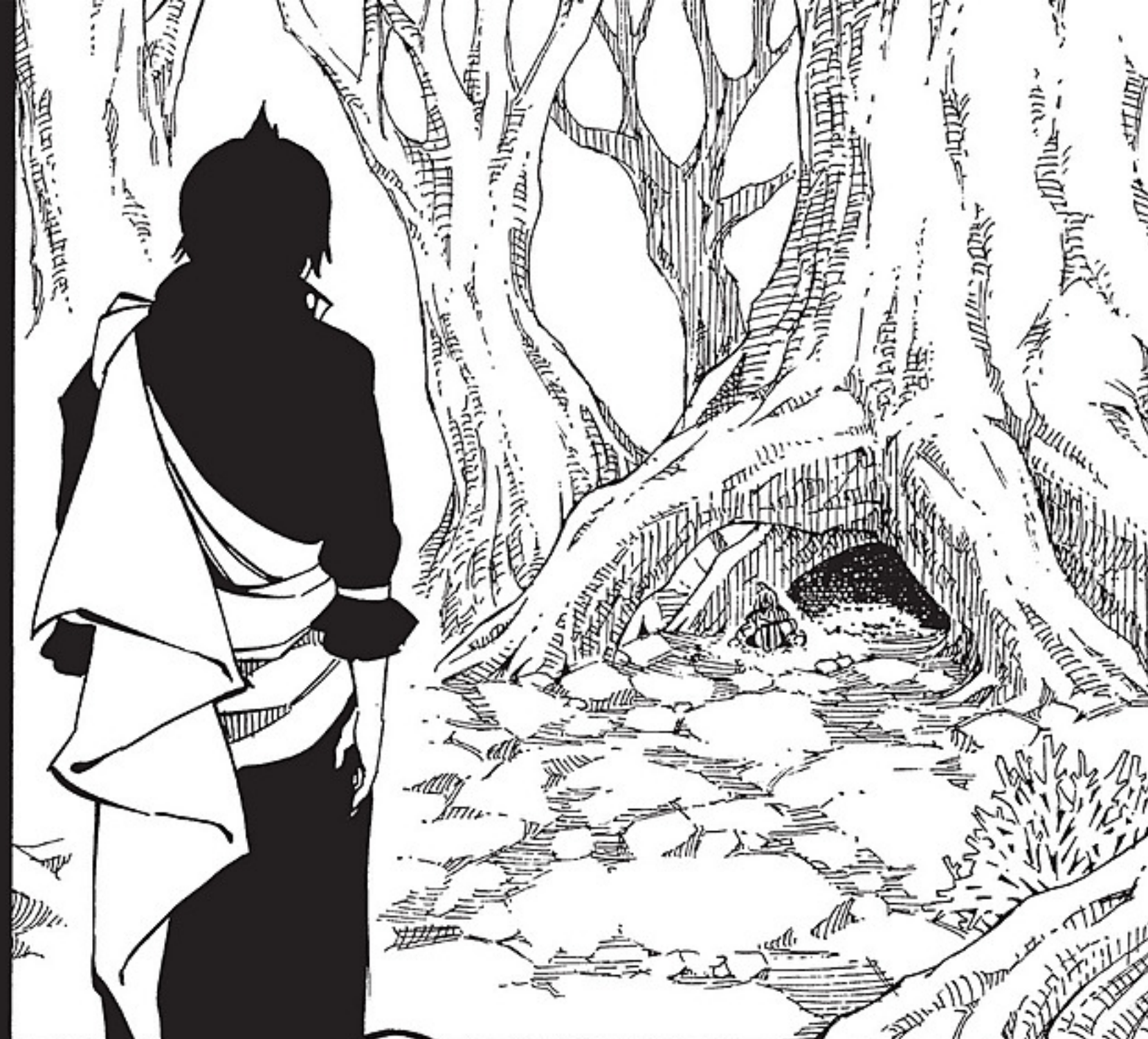
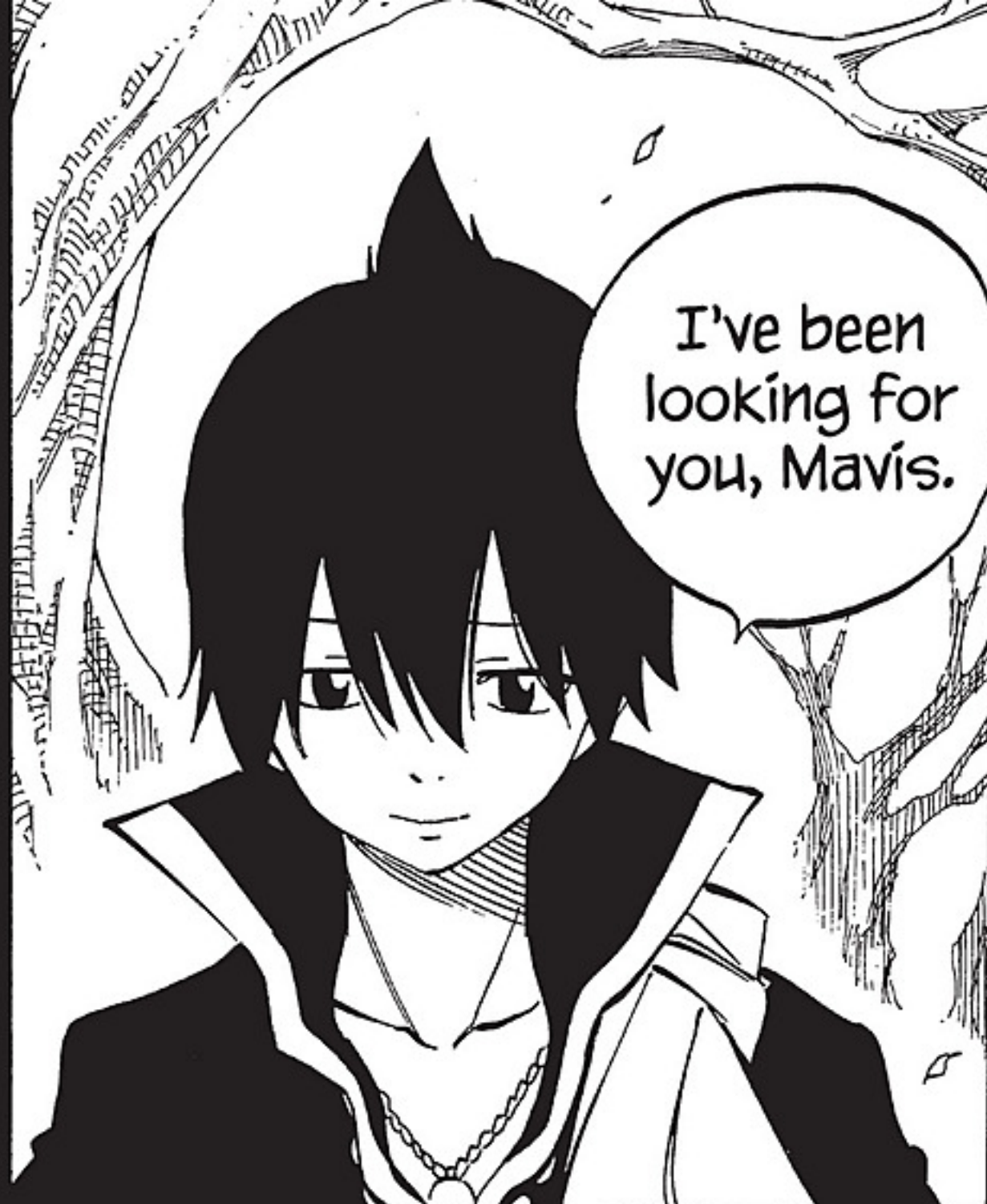
*After that
day, I never
returned to
the guild.*

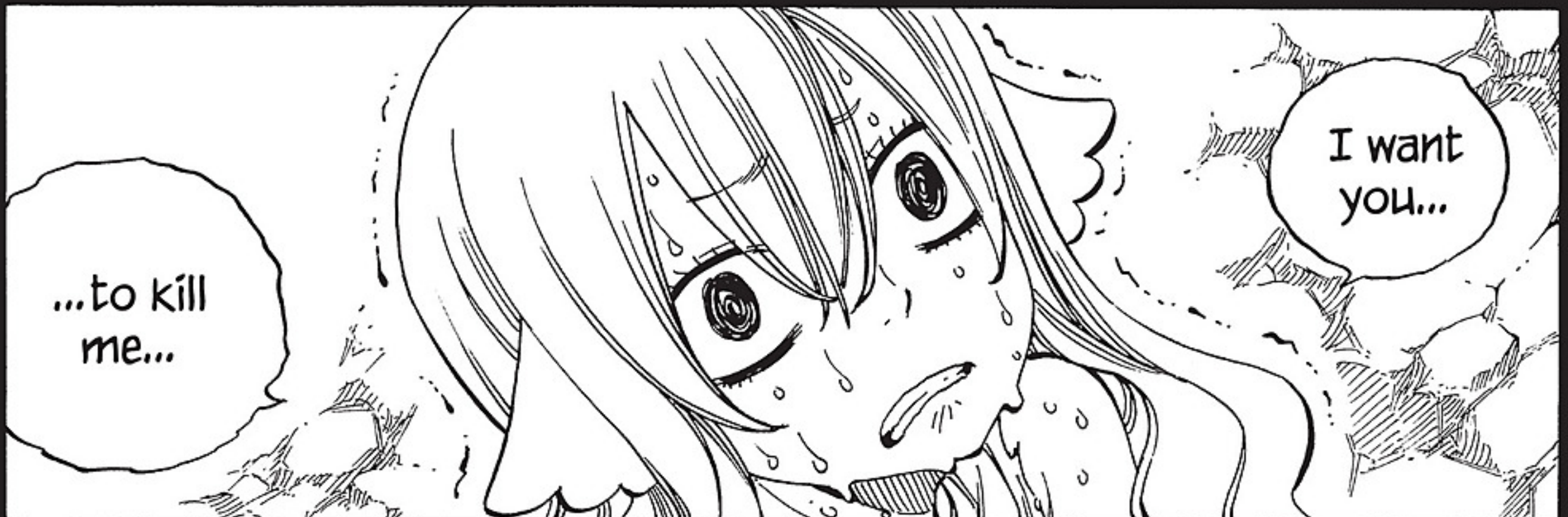


*That
was my
life for
about a
year. But
then...*



*I can't
tell you
how
many
lives I
stole.*







So
Ankhselam's
curse has no
effect. This is
just a simulation.
A game.

There, I am the
emperor, and the
people are units.
Yes. Just pieces on
a game board.



I'm
preparing
for battle...
maybe?



What
for?

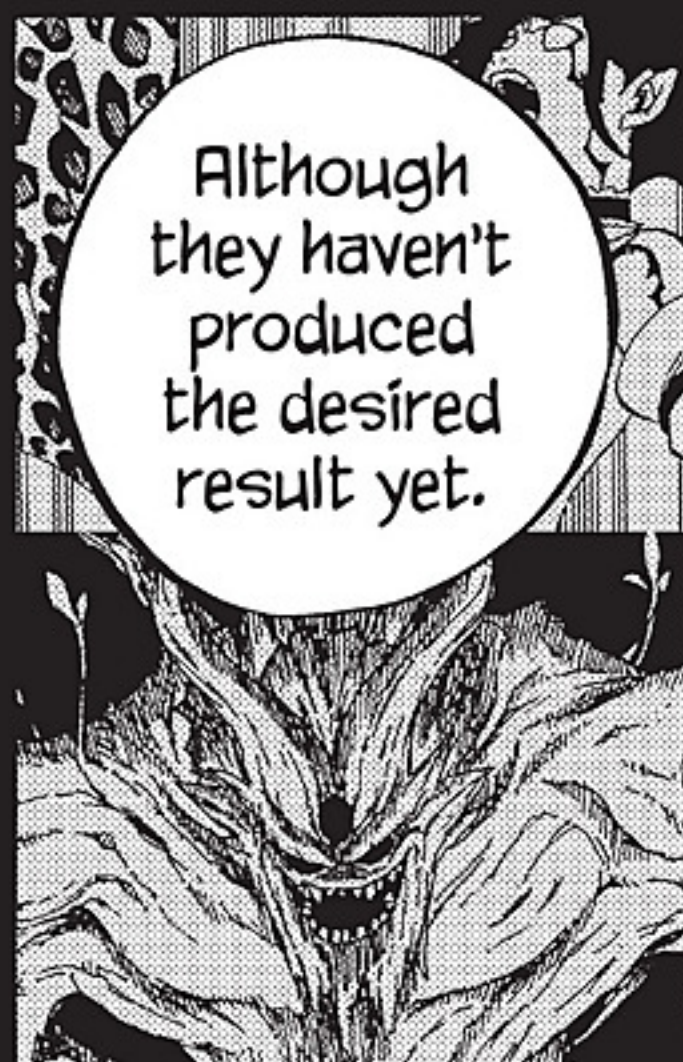


Even this
expansion of my
country's territory
is not in any way
enjoyable.

Don't
misunderstand
me. I take no
pleasure in war.
On the contrary,
I hate it.



You and I
have all the
time in the
world.

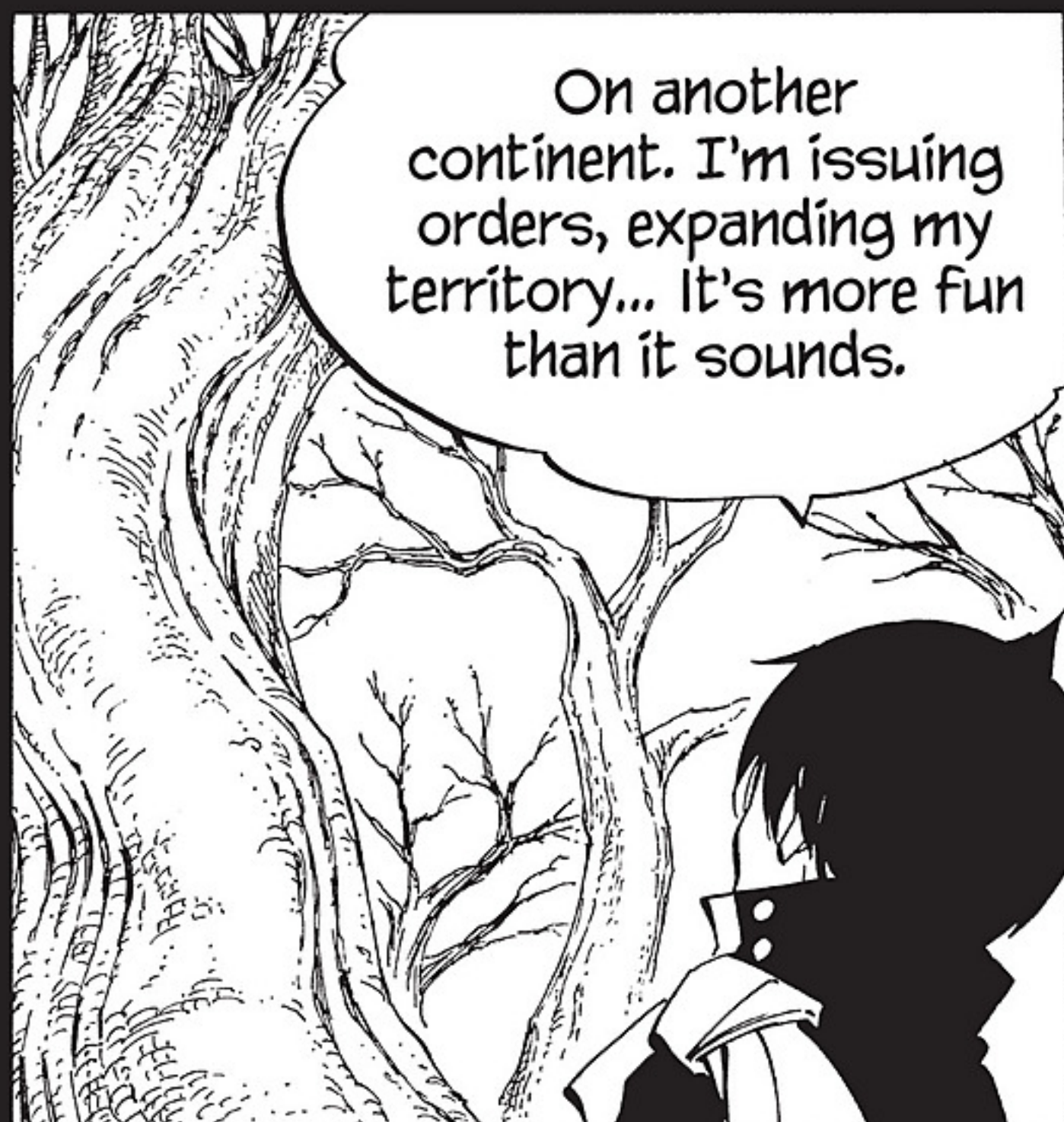


Although
they haven't
produced
the desired
result yet.



I used
some of mine
to create
demons called
Etherious.

Yes...
inhuman
beings, who
might have
the power to
kill me.



On another
continent. I'm issuing
orders, expanding my
territory... It's more fun
than it sounds.



A
country?



Presently,
I am
building a
country.



*Are there
contradictions
even in his
thoughts?*



Oh?
Did I?

But...you
just said it was
more fun than
it sounded.

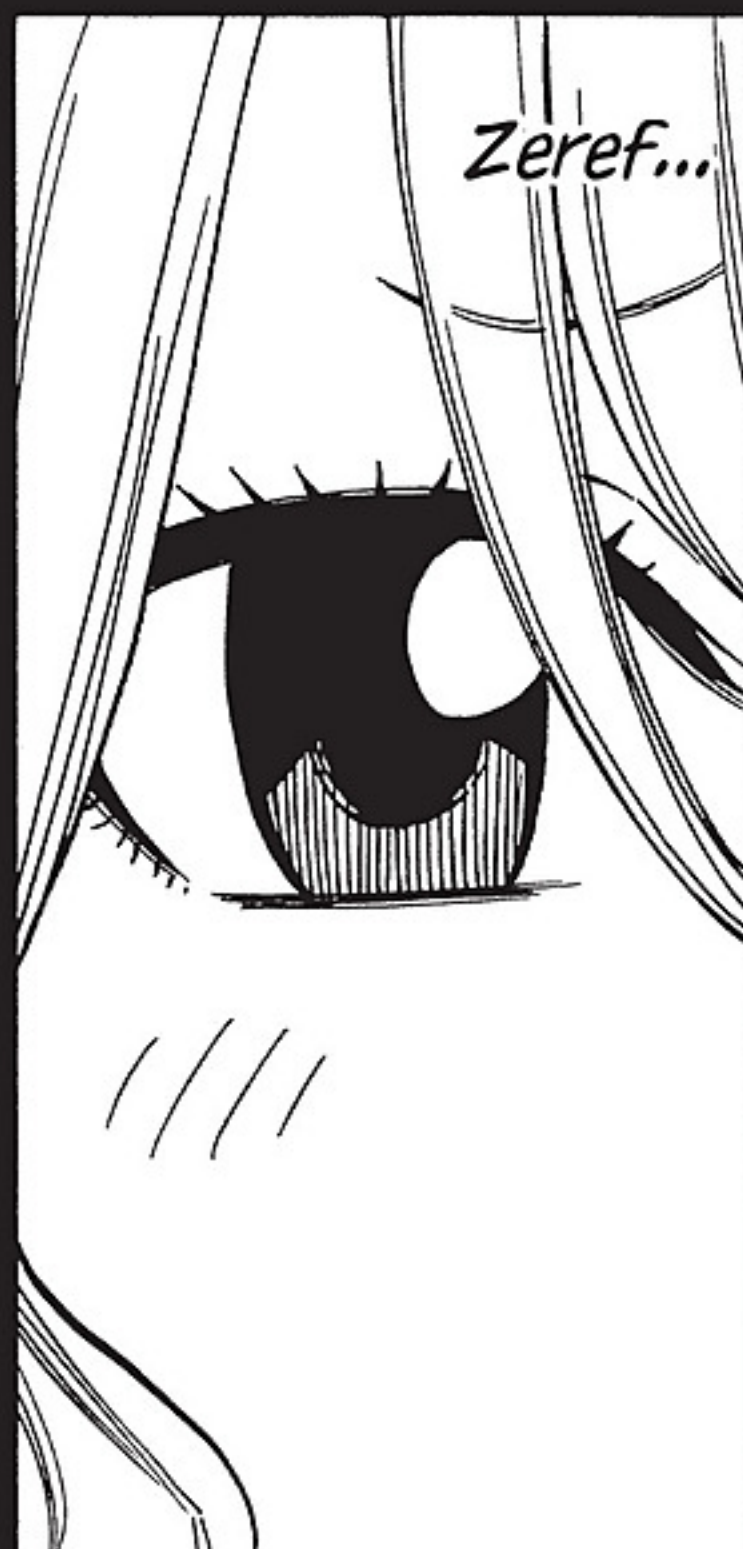


I want
to see my
brother...

No... I
want him
crushed!

That's
my purpose
in life.

I'm
living so
I can
die.

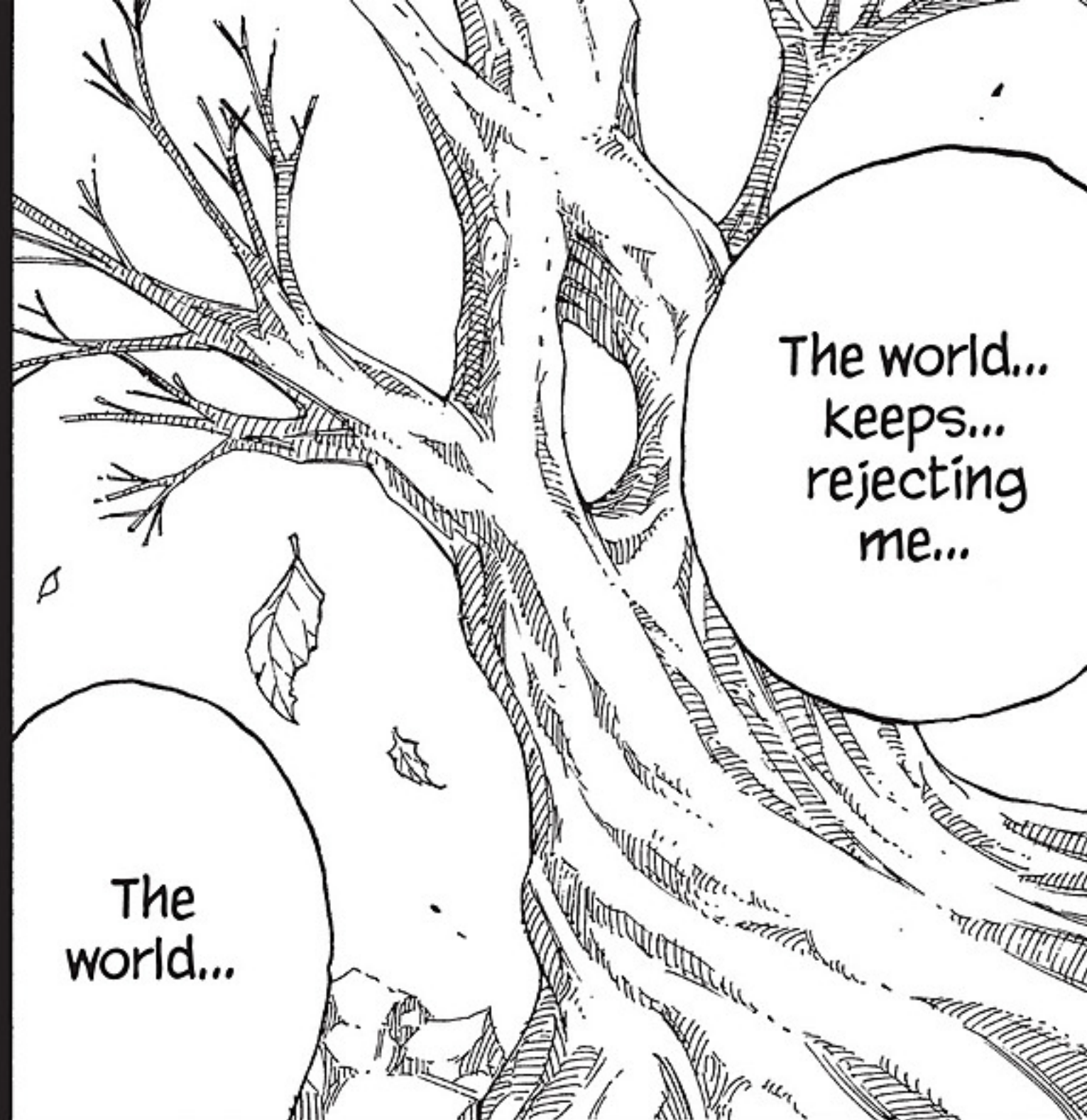
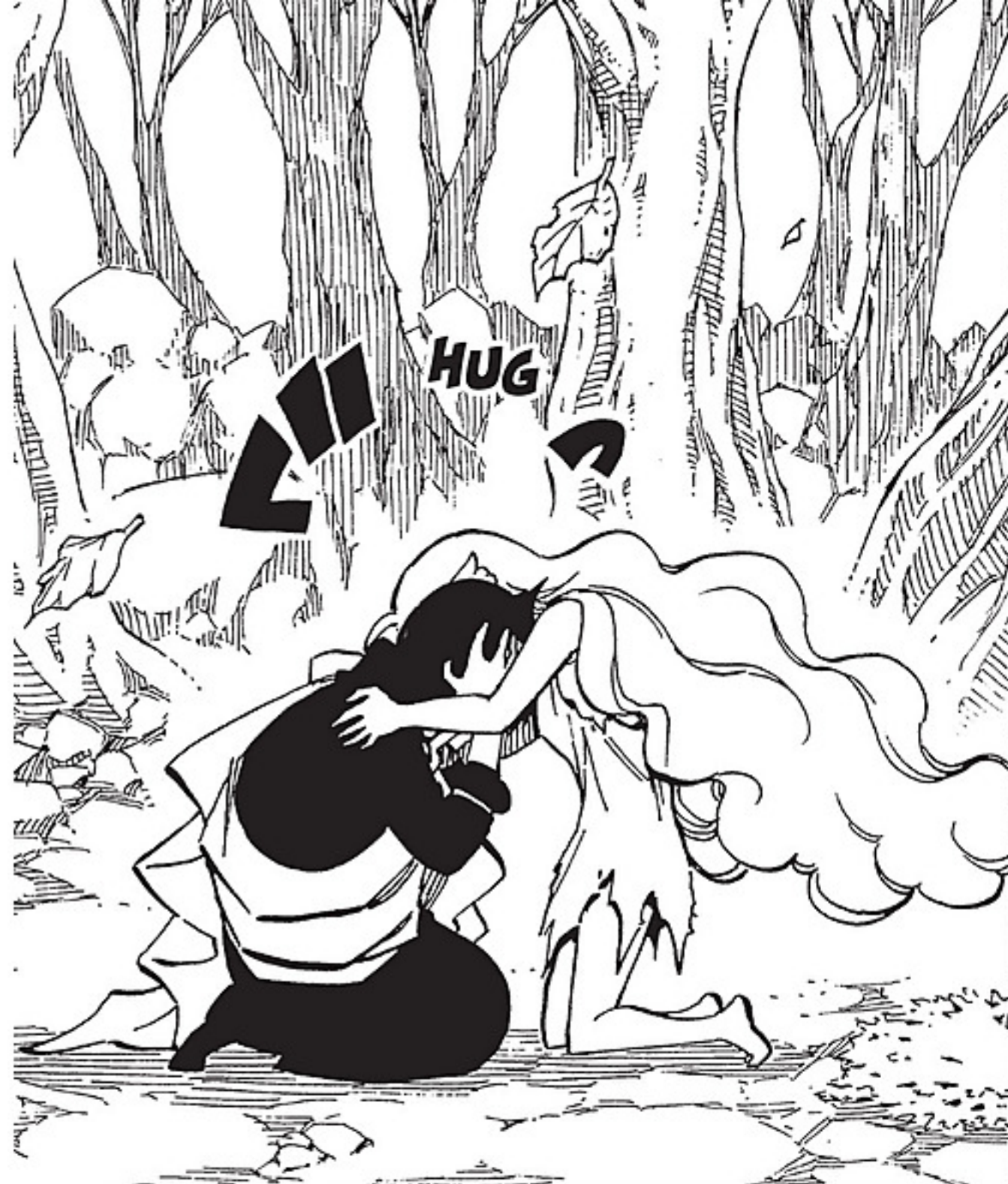


Zeref...



No, I
want him
to crush
me...

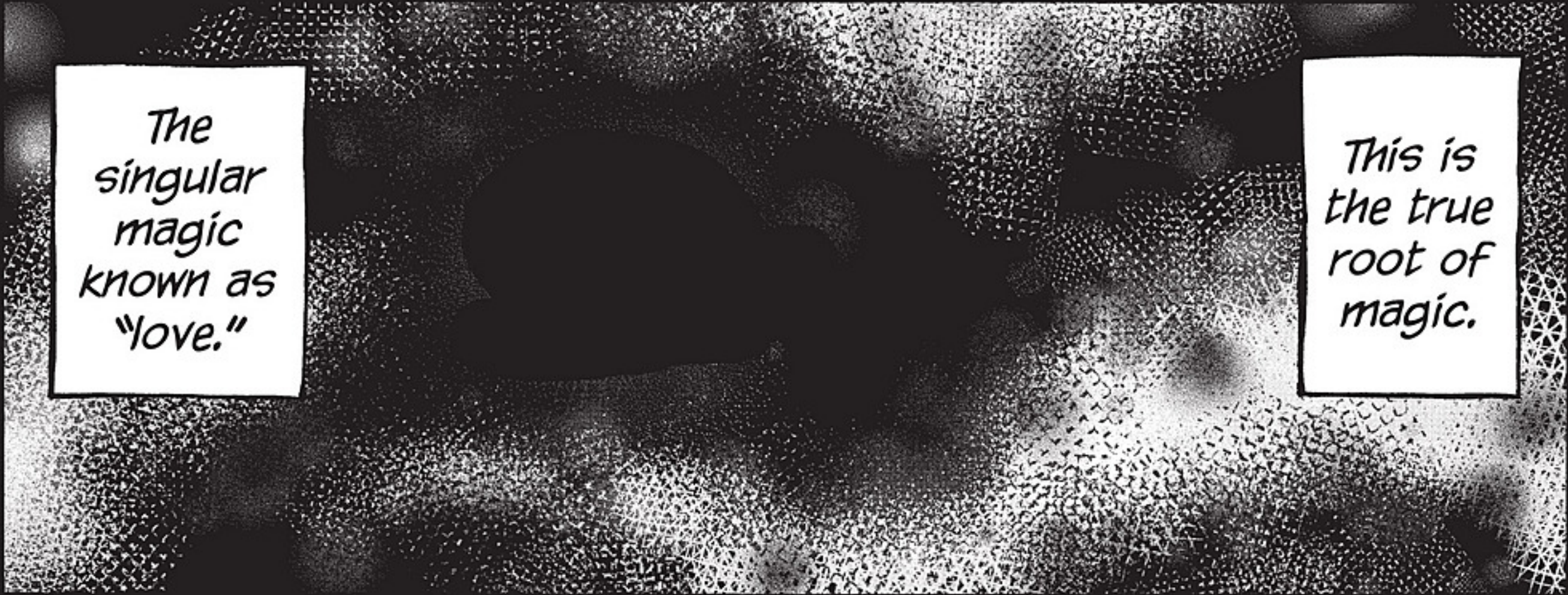
Huh?
My head
kind of...
hurts...





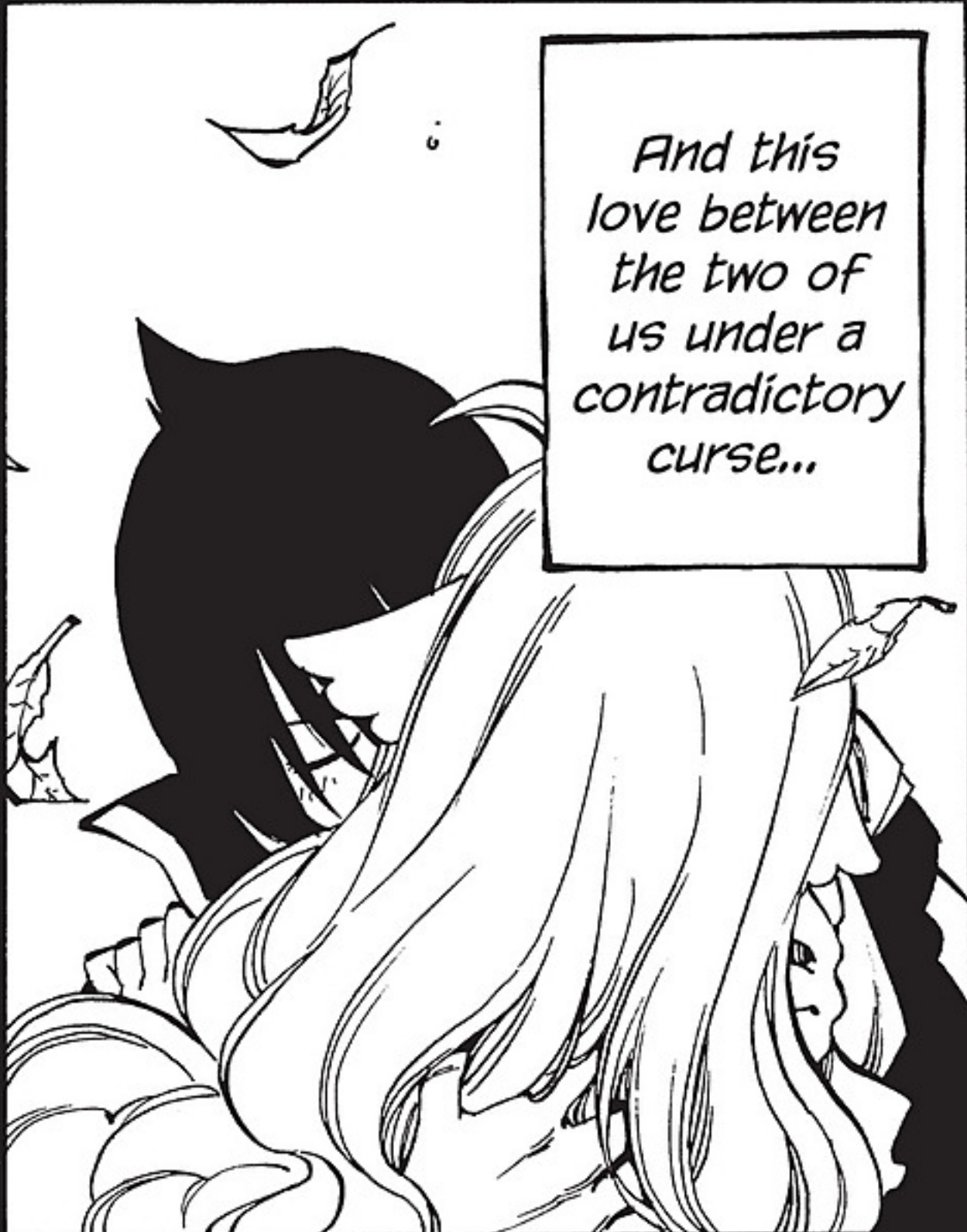






*The
singular
magic
known as
"love."*

*This is
the true
root of
magic.*



*And this
love between
the two of
us under a
contradictory
curse...*



*Love can
perform
miracles.*

*But at
times, it
can also
bring
sorrow.*



*This curse,
where the
more you
love, the
more you
steal life
away...*



*...brought
about con-
tradiction
in the end.*

*It had
granted me
immortality,
and yet it
stole my
life away.*

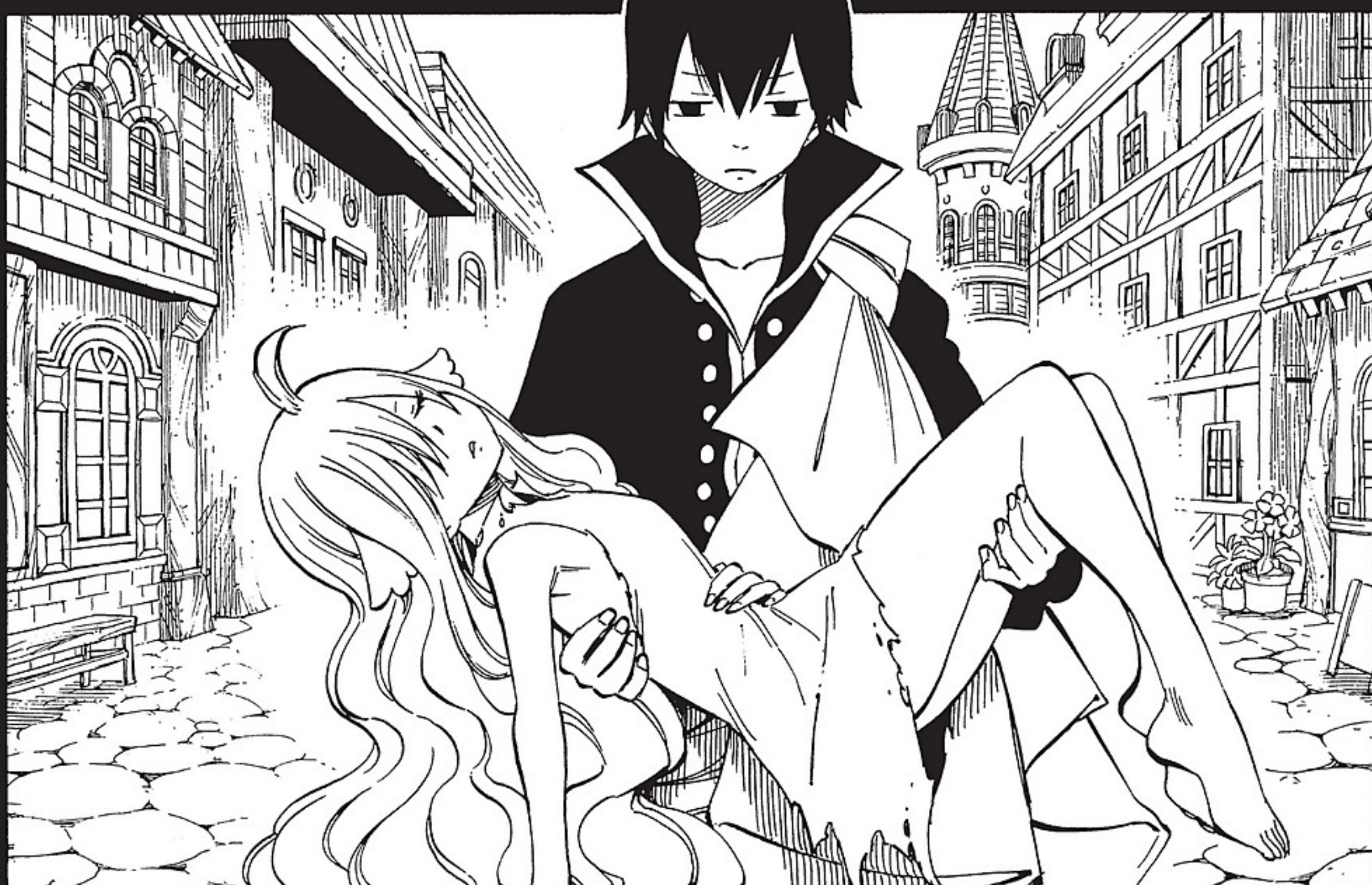
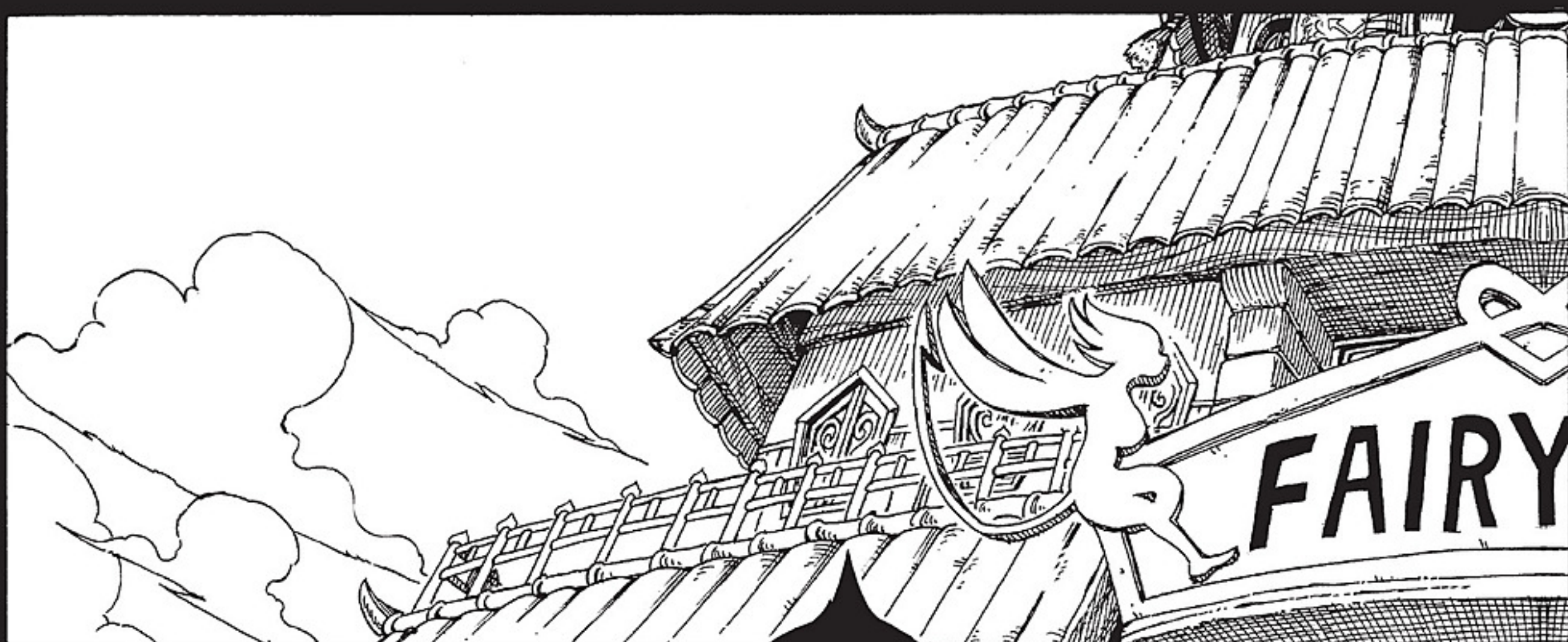


FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 451: Fairy Heart





Yeah...
Everyone else
is making
preparations
for the harvest
festival.



Are... you
alone?

She's been
gone a
whole year!
We were
worried
sick!



Master...?
I see. This
was a guild,
wasn't it?



Ever since
Mavis vanished,
I've had to take
on the duties
of master...

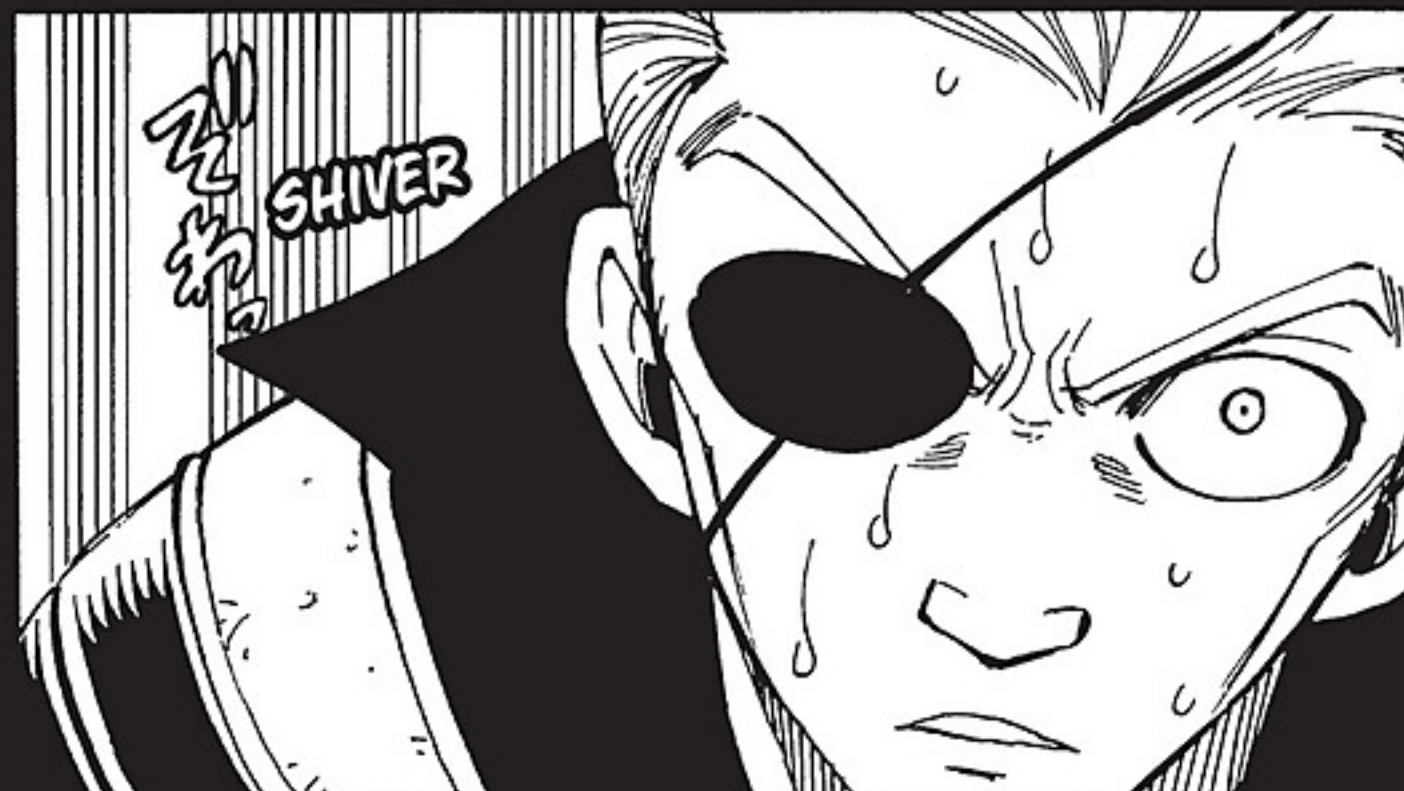
H-Hey!!
How can you
treat her like
that?! She
isn't just
some doll!

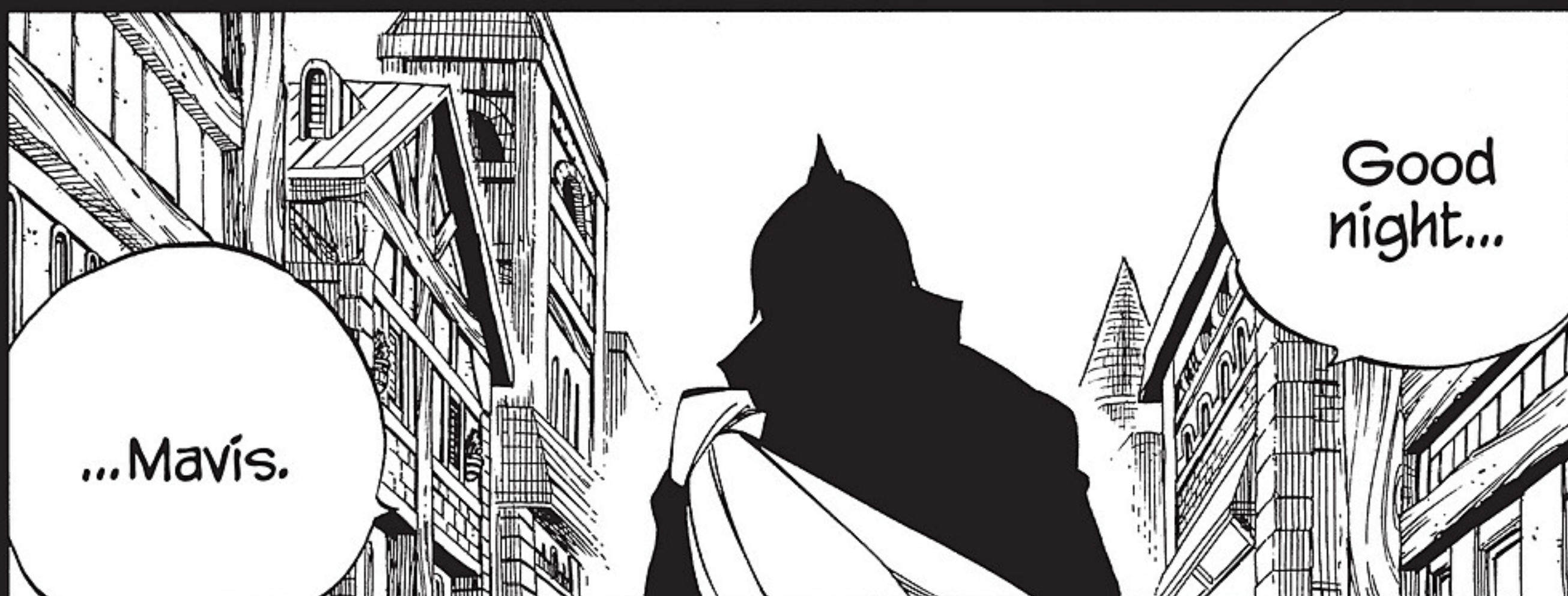


THUD

I've come
to return
Mavis to
you.









Yes, I will
return to my
game.

I am
exhausted...

In
Alakítasía, I
won't have to
worry about
encountering
people.

...and wish
to meet no
one.



One
I must
never
repeat...

Love was a
mistake.



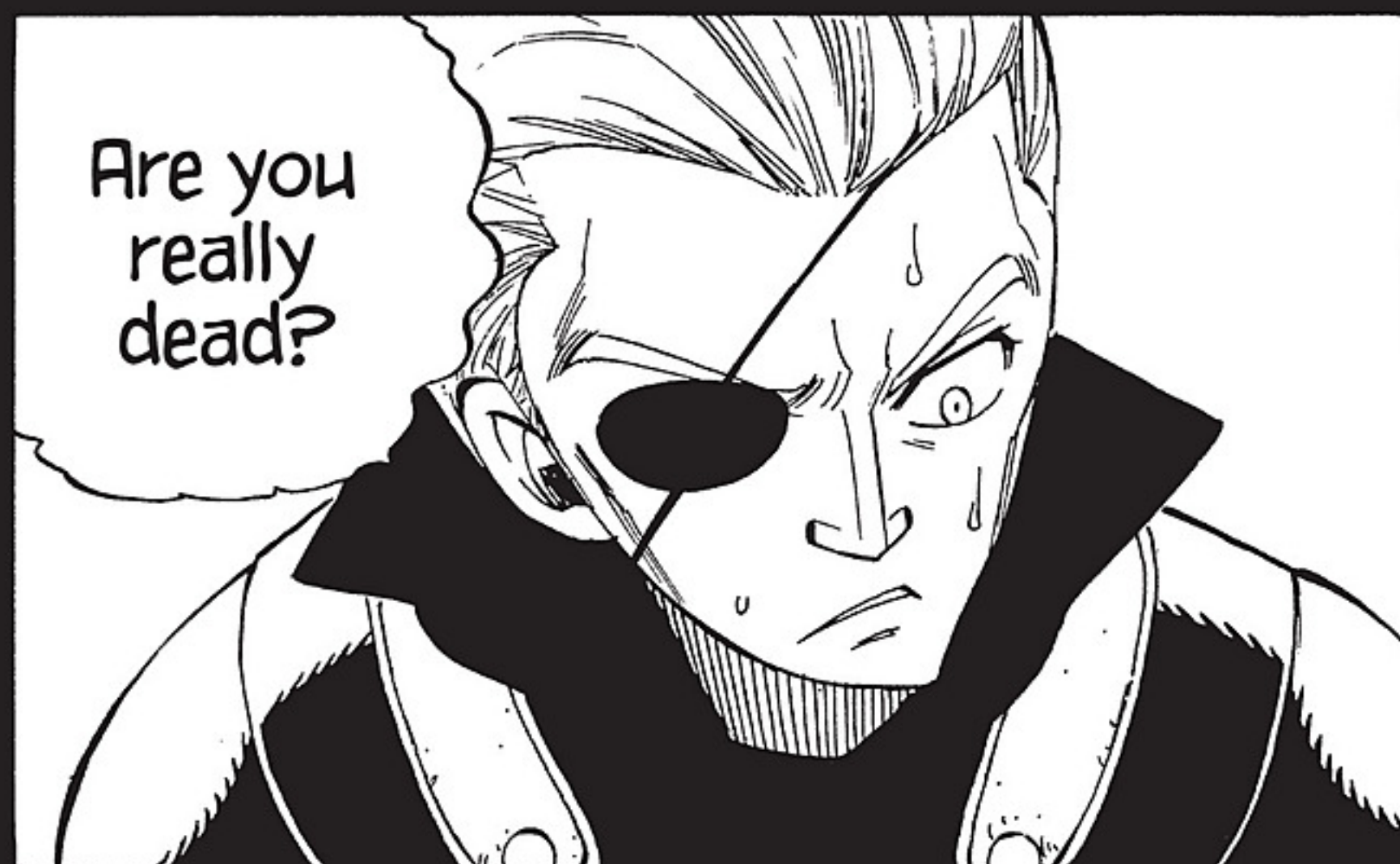
Mavis!
What
happened
with him
?!

How did
you get
like this?!

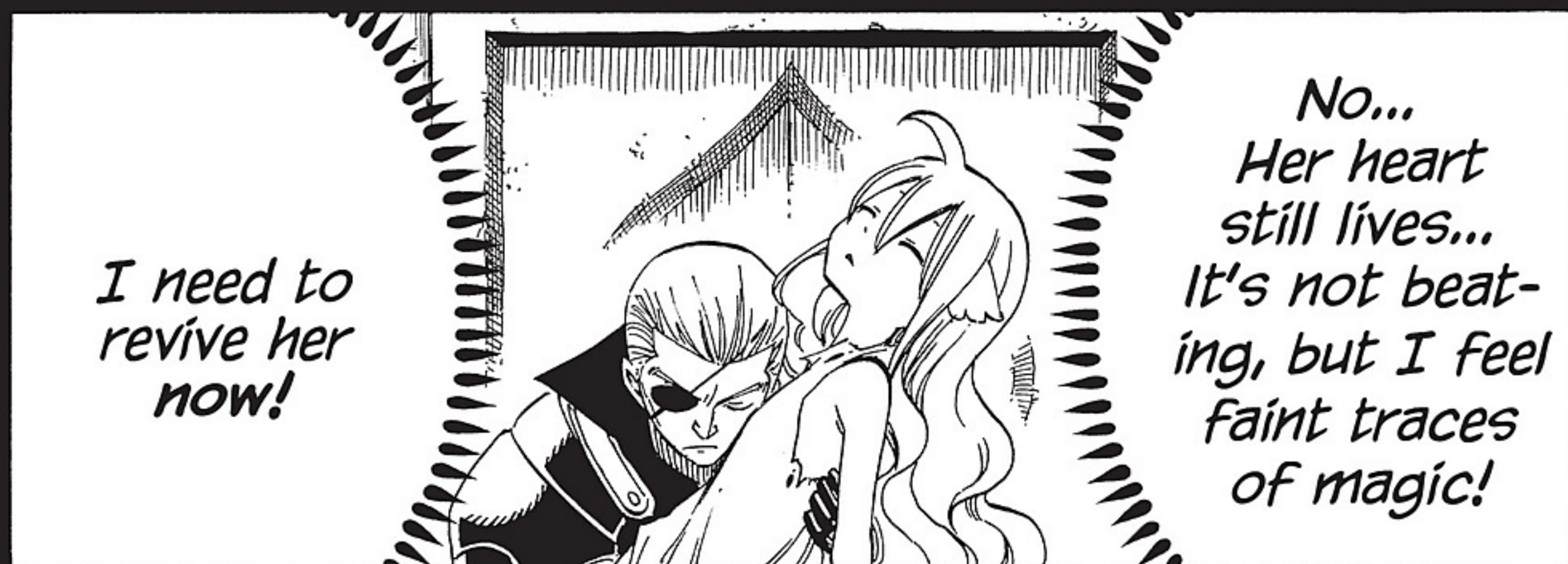


Zeref...

That's the
legendary
Black
Wizard?!

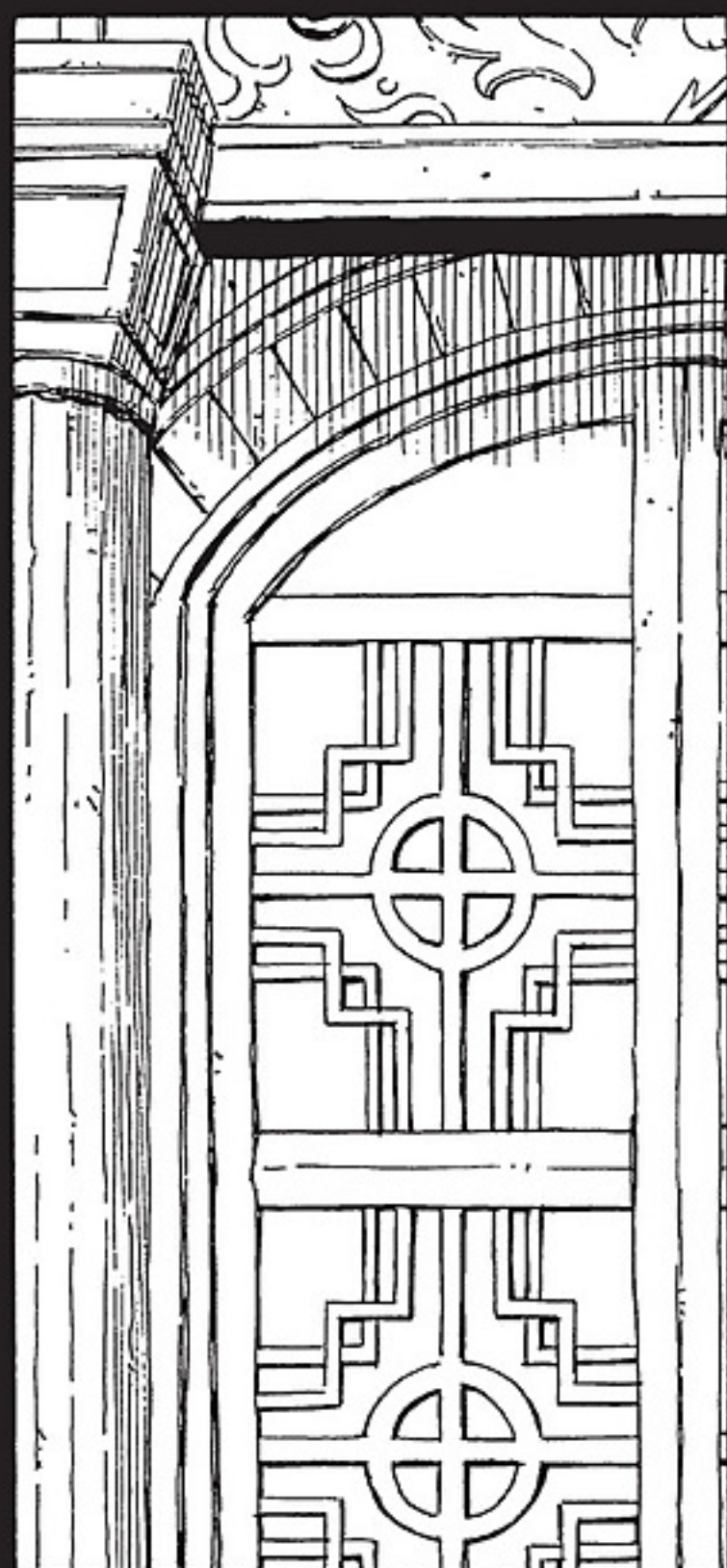


Are you
really
dead?

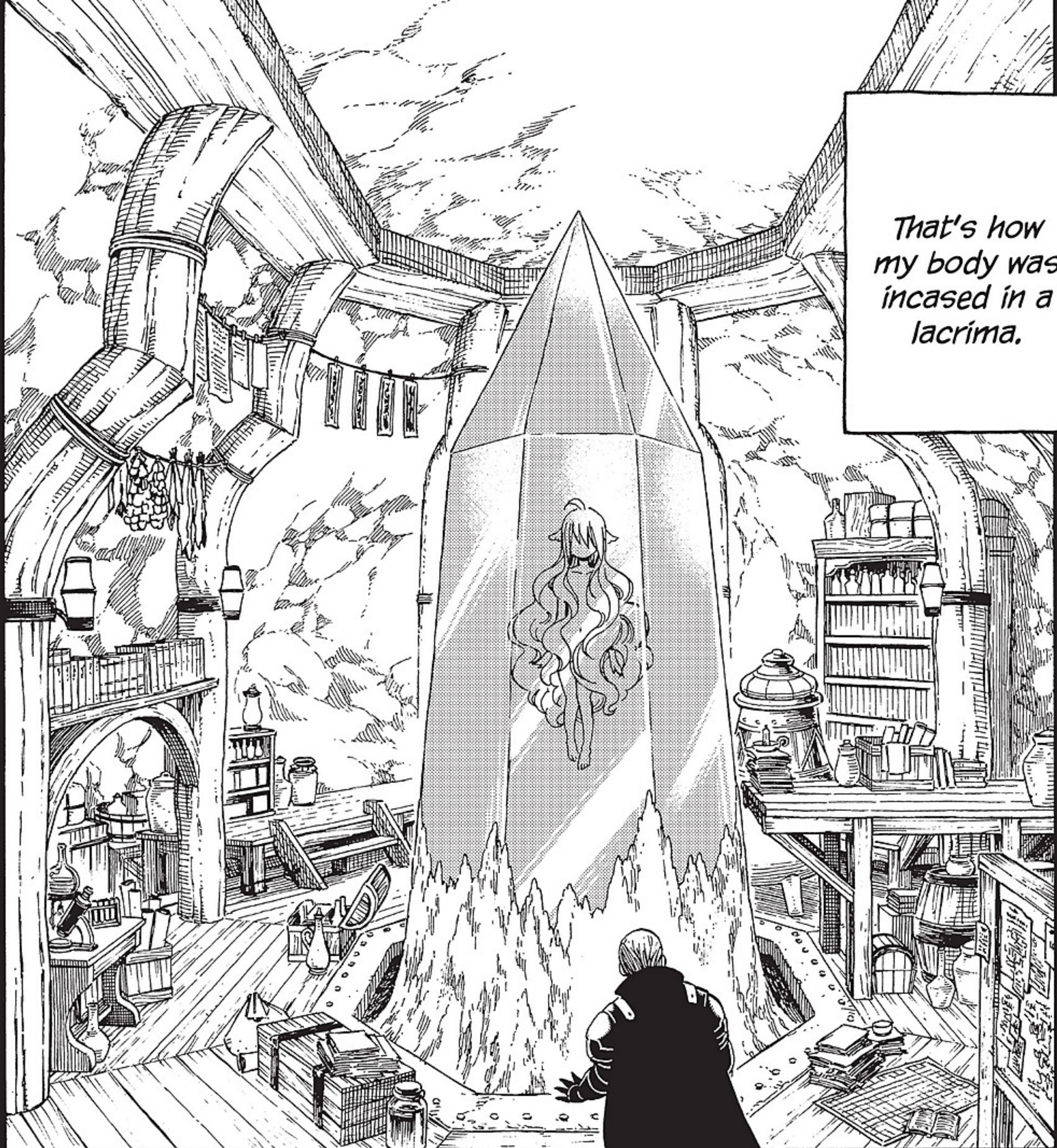


*I need to
revive her
now!*

*No...
Her heart
still lives...
It's not beat-
ing, but I feel
faint traces
of magic!*



*I know
we have a lacrima
used for revival.
It should be in the
guild's basement
that's still under
construction!*

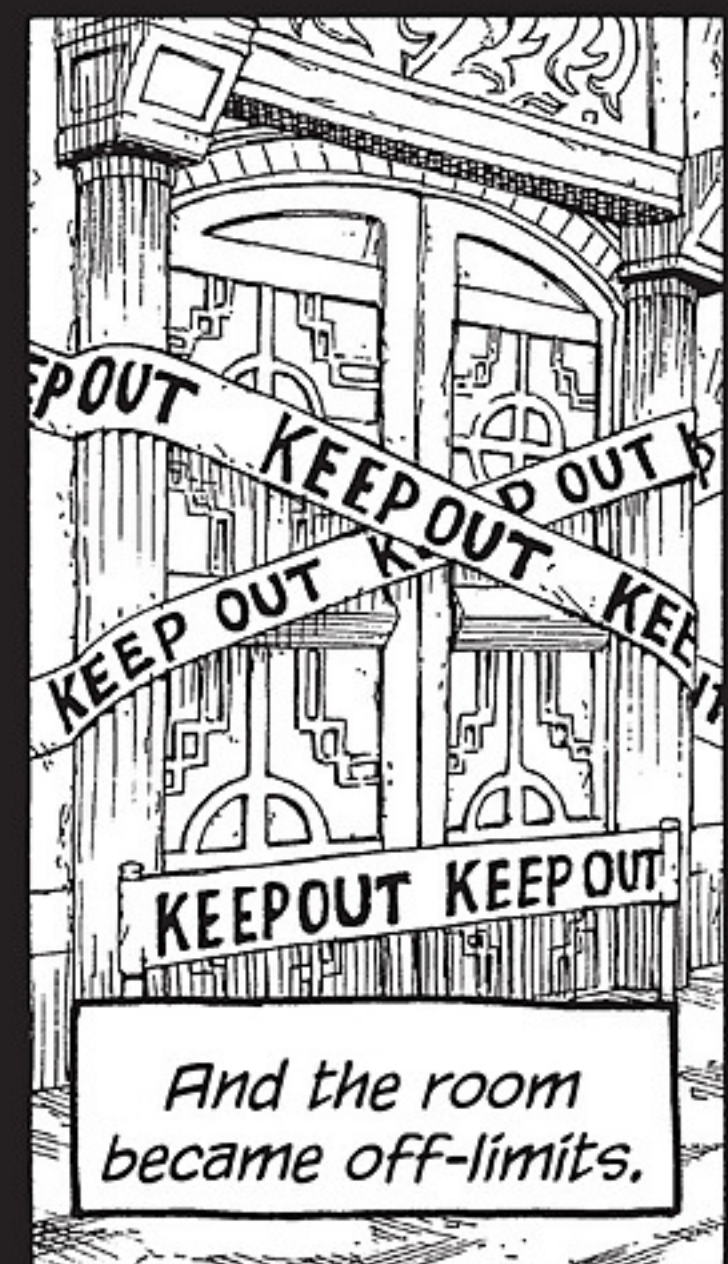


*That's how
my body was
incased in a
lacrima.*



*...but none
had any
effect.*

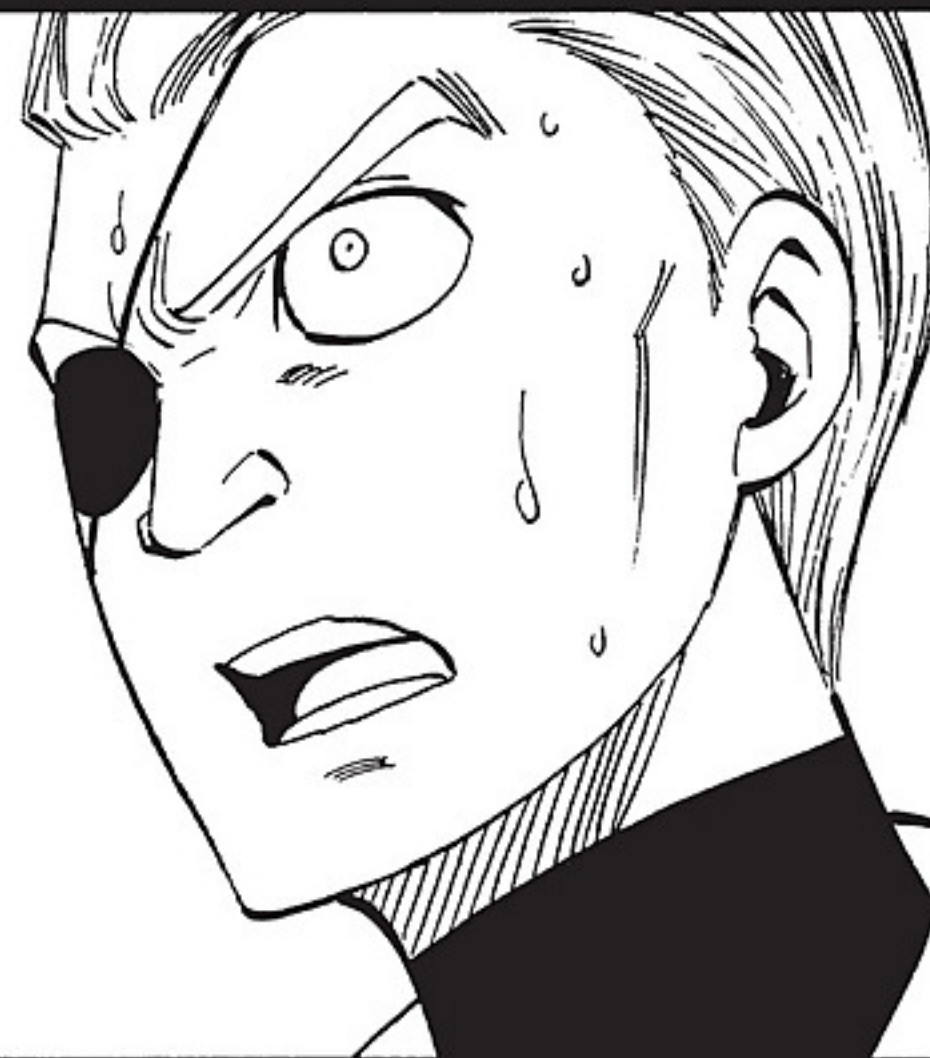
*A number
of revival
magics
were tried
on me...*



*And the room
became off-limits.*

He figured out that I was under the curse of Ankhselam.

But there is a reason why Precht would go on to be called a genius.



Thus, I was kept a secret even from the rest of the guild.

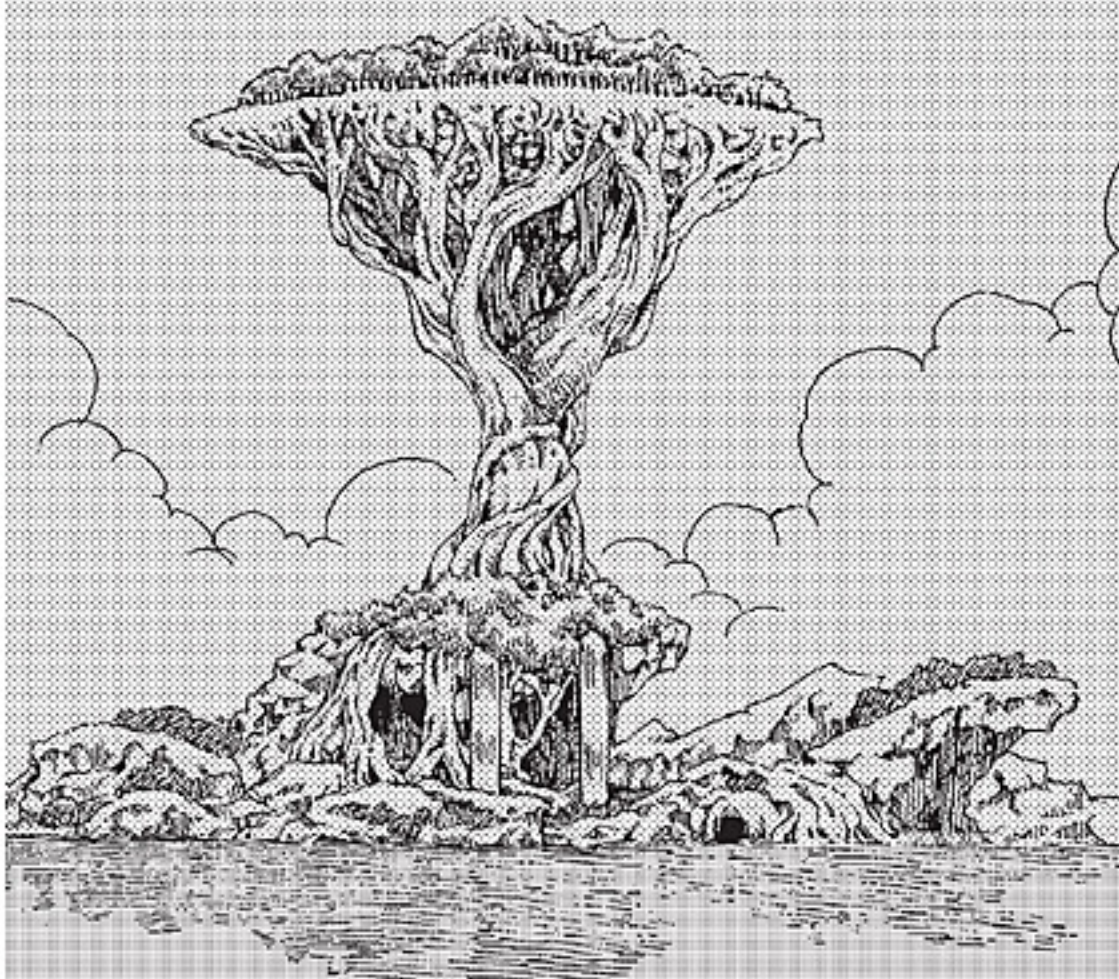
The other guild members... can never know of this...

Don't tell me... she was the true cause behind Rita's ...

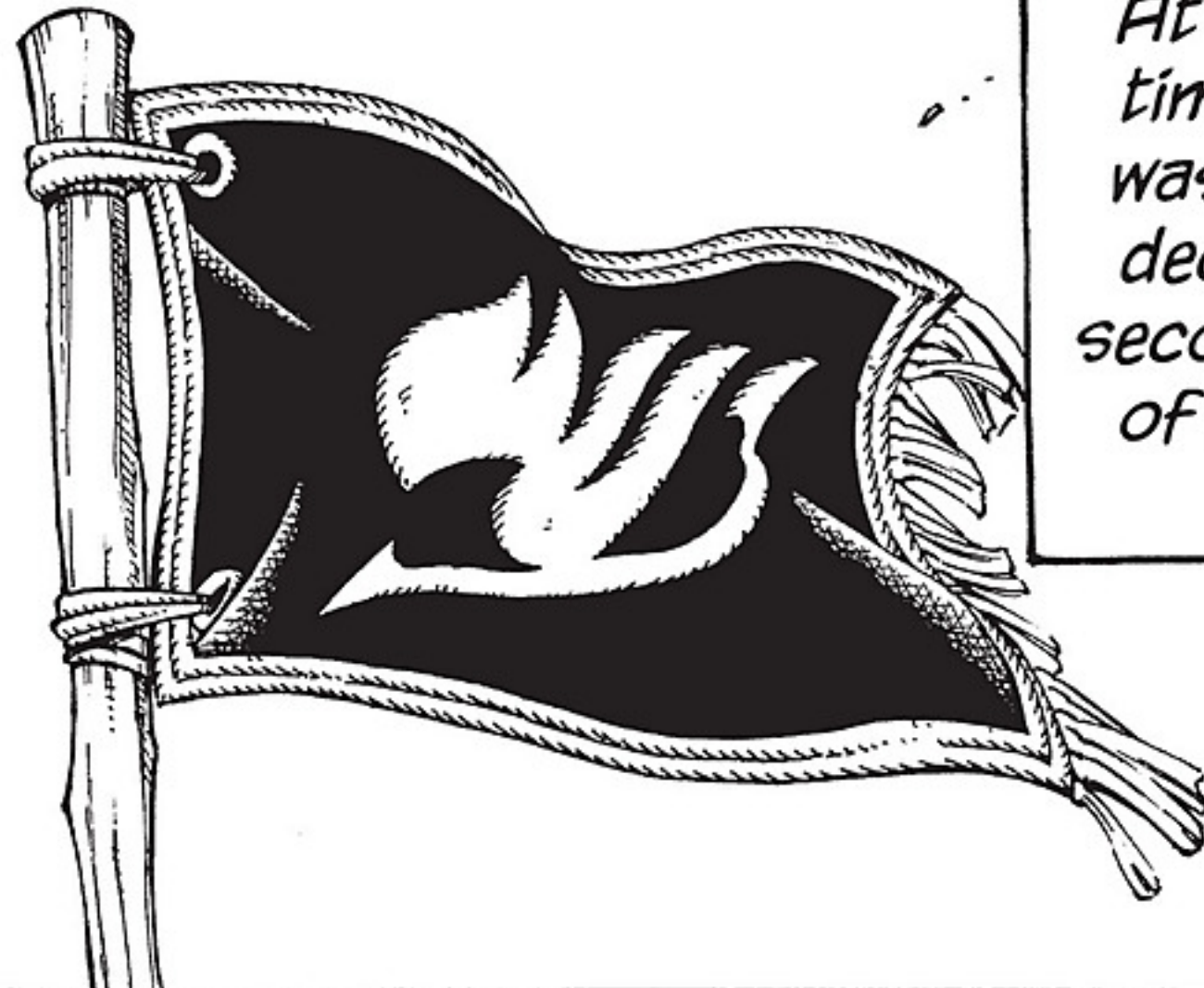
Sirius Island was not just my home, but where I first met Precht and the others.

In the year X697, Precht made the decision to tell everyone that I had died.

And an empty grave was arranged for me on Sirius Island, the guild's sacred ground.

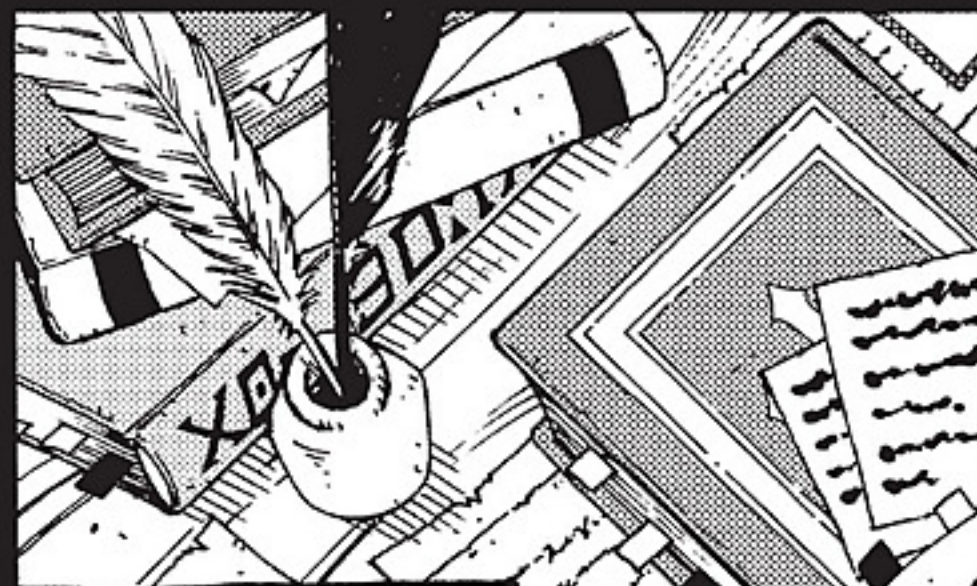


*It was in
accordance
with a will
I had left
behind.*



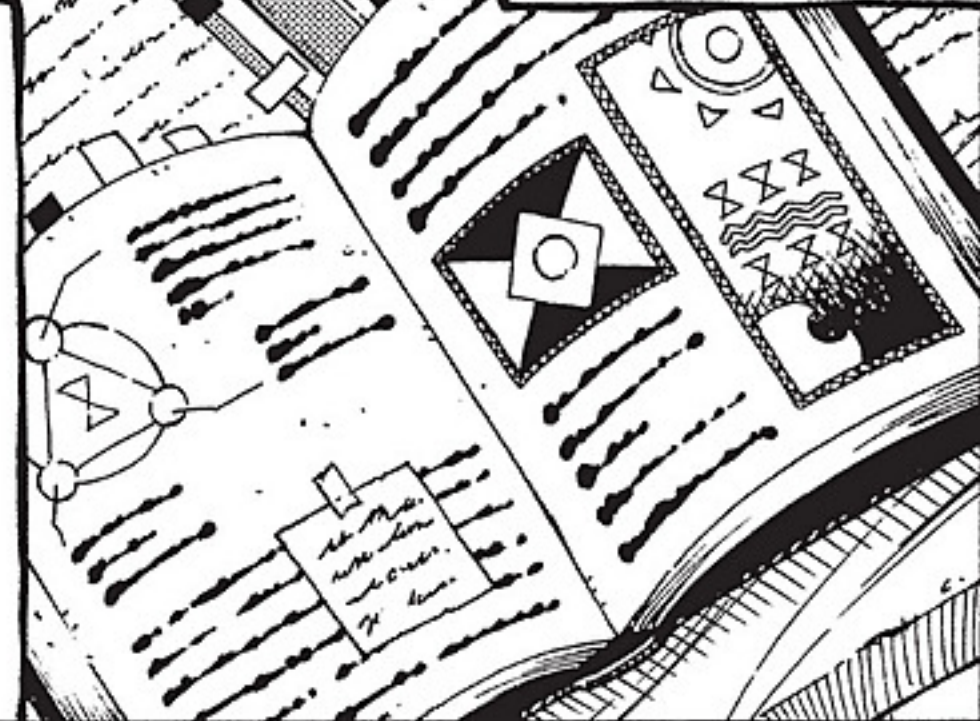
*At the same
time, Precht
was formally
declared the
second master
of Fairy Tail.*

*Three years later, in
X700, Makarov's
father Yuri passed
away, never knowing
the truth about his
wife's death.*

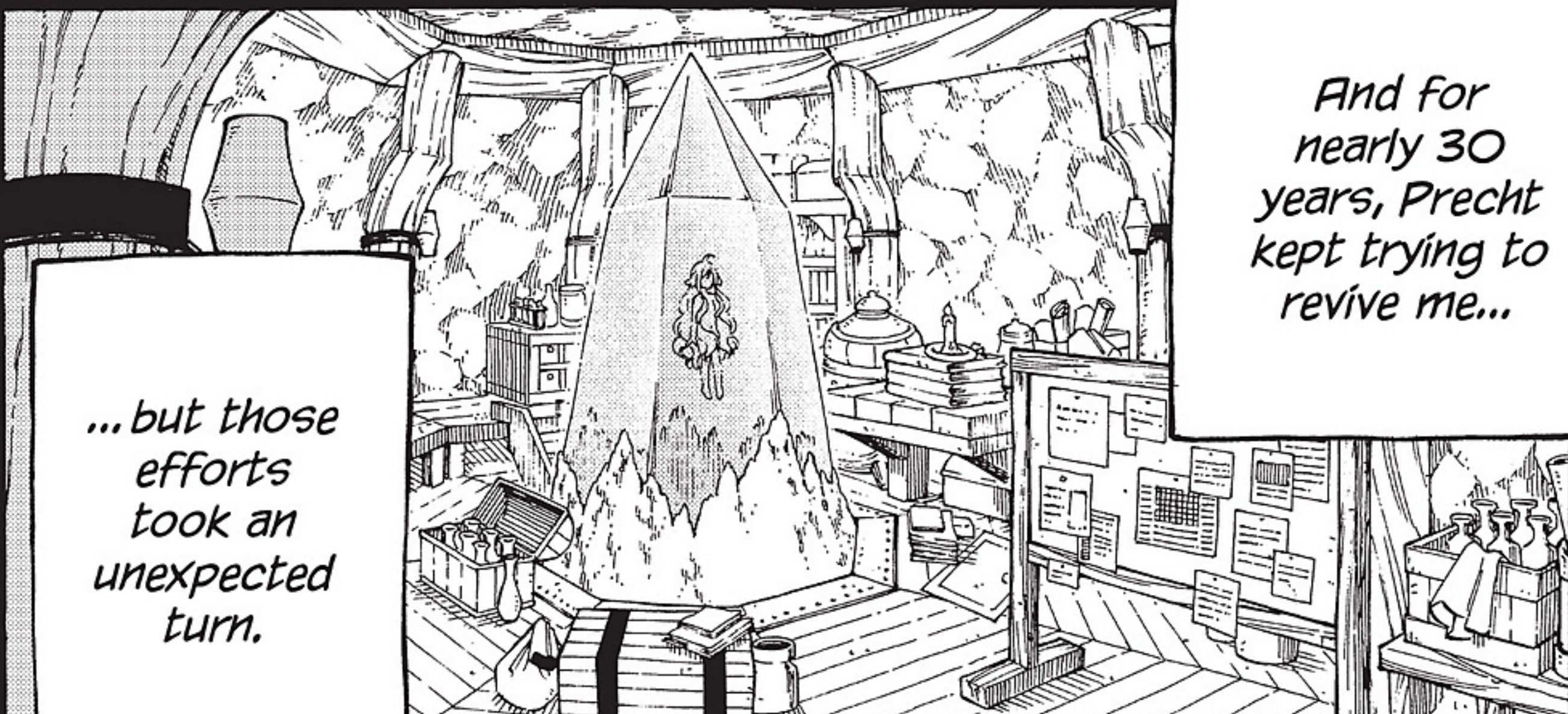


*He carried
out his
duties as
master...*

*...while also
fervently
searching
for ways to
revive me.*



*...but those
efforts
took an
unexpected
turn.*

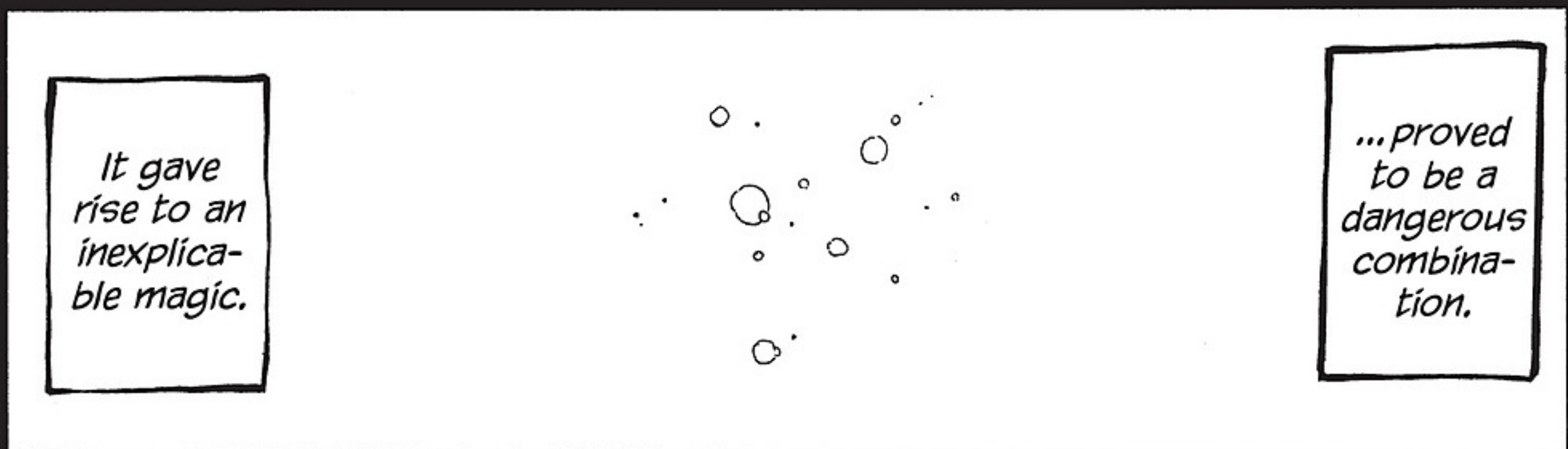


*And for
nearly 30
years, Precht
kept trying to
revive me...*



*...and the
preservation
of my
otherwise
immortal
body...*

*Precht's
rare
knowledge
and skills,
as well
as his
genius...*

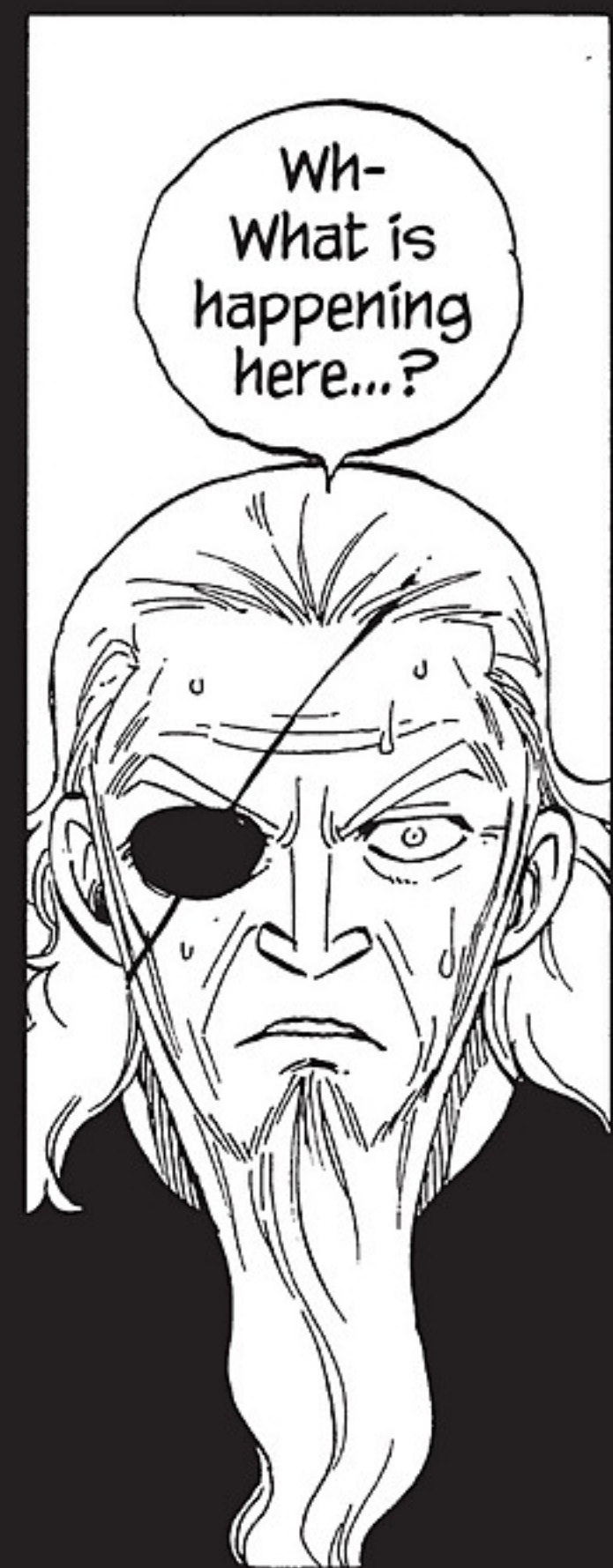


*It gave
rise to an
inexplica-
ble magic.*

*...proved
to be a
dangerous
combina-
tion.*

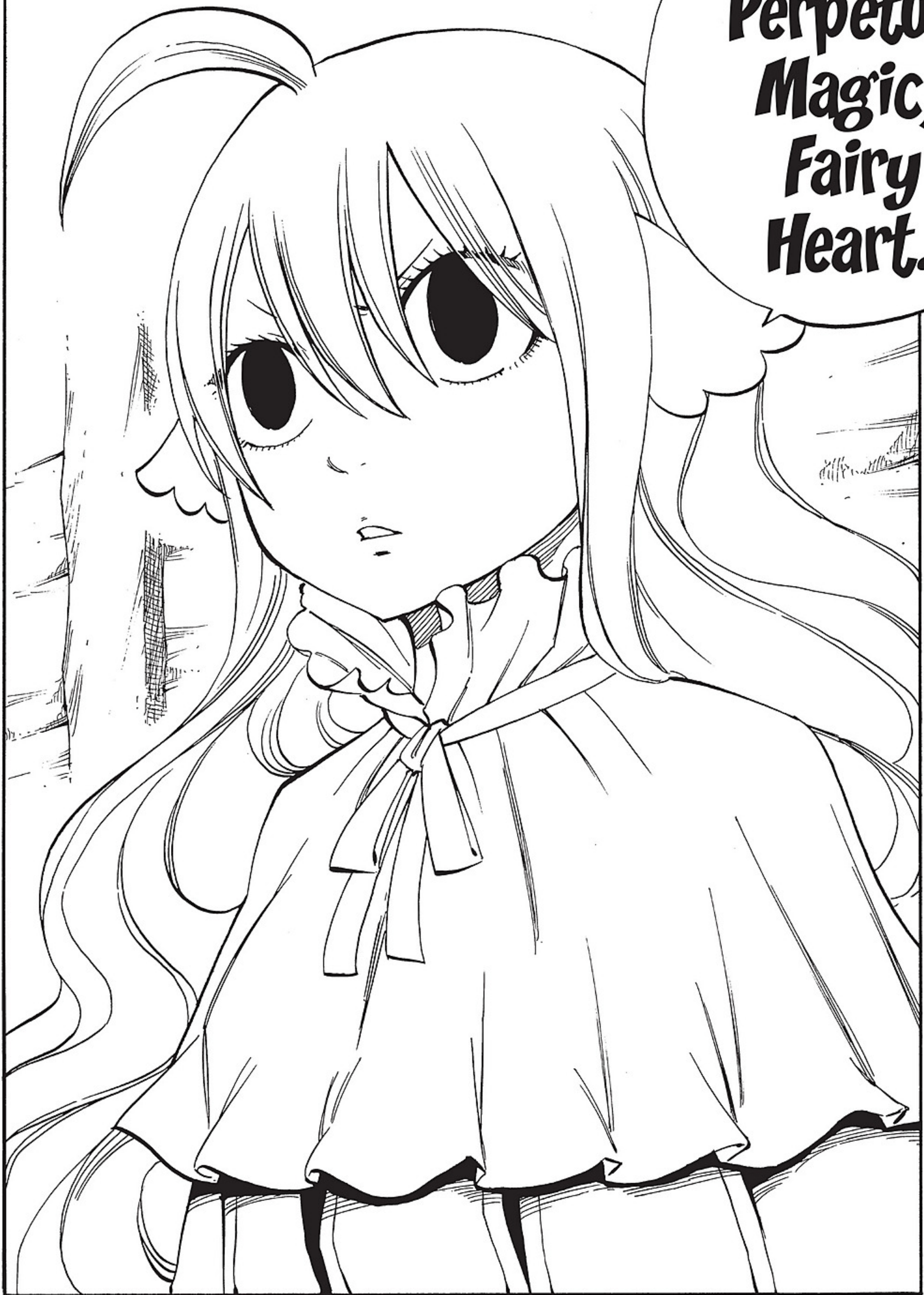


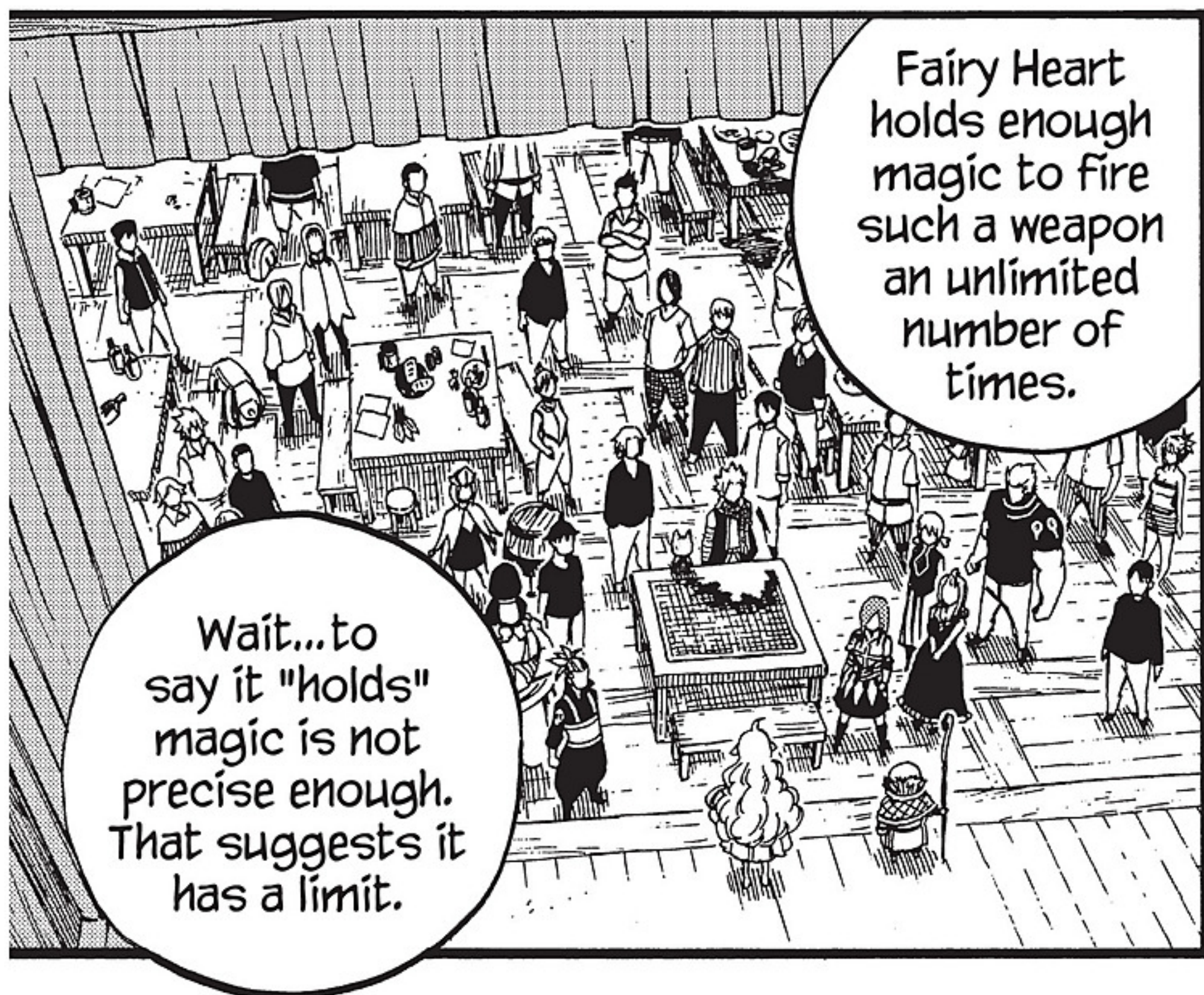
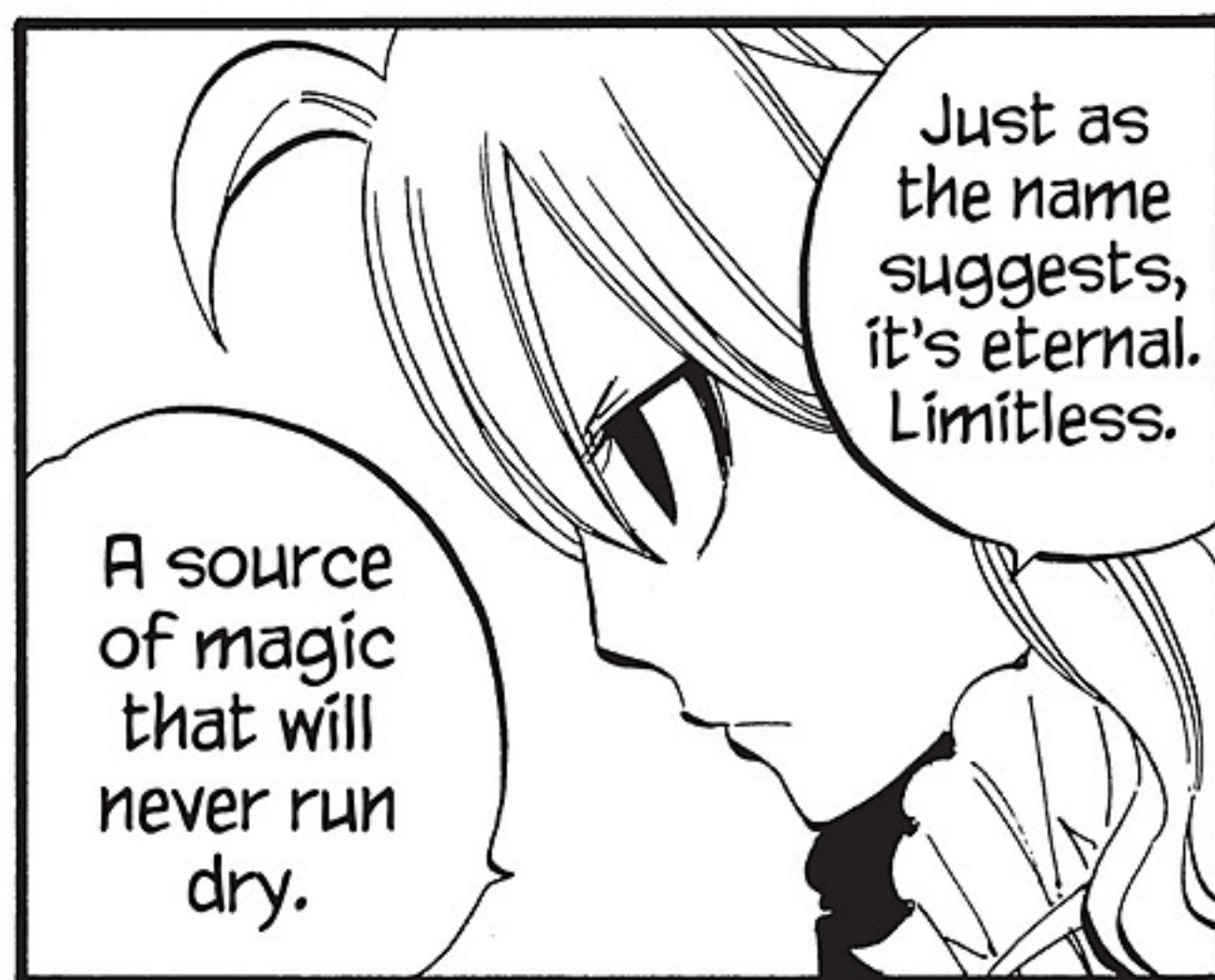
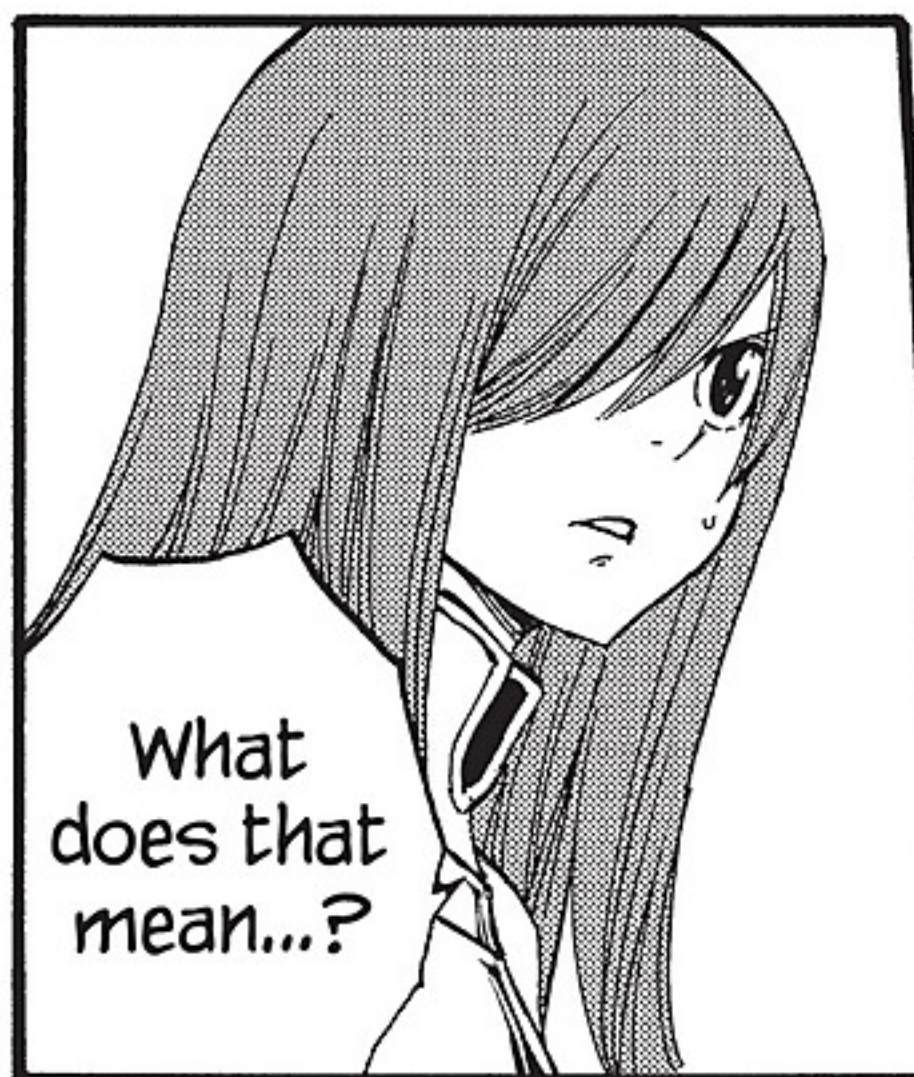
*This
challenges
the very
foundations
of magic...*

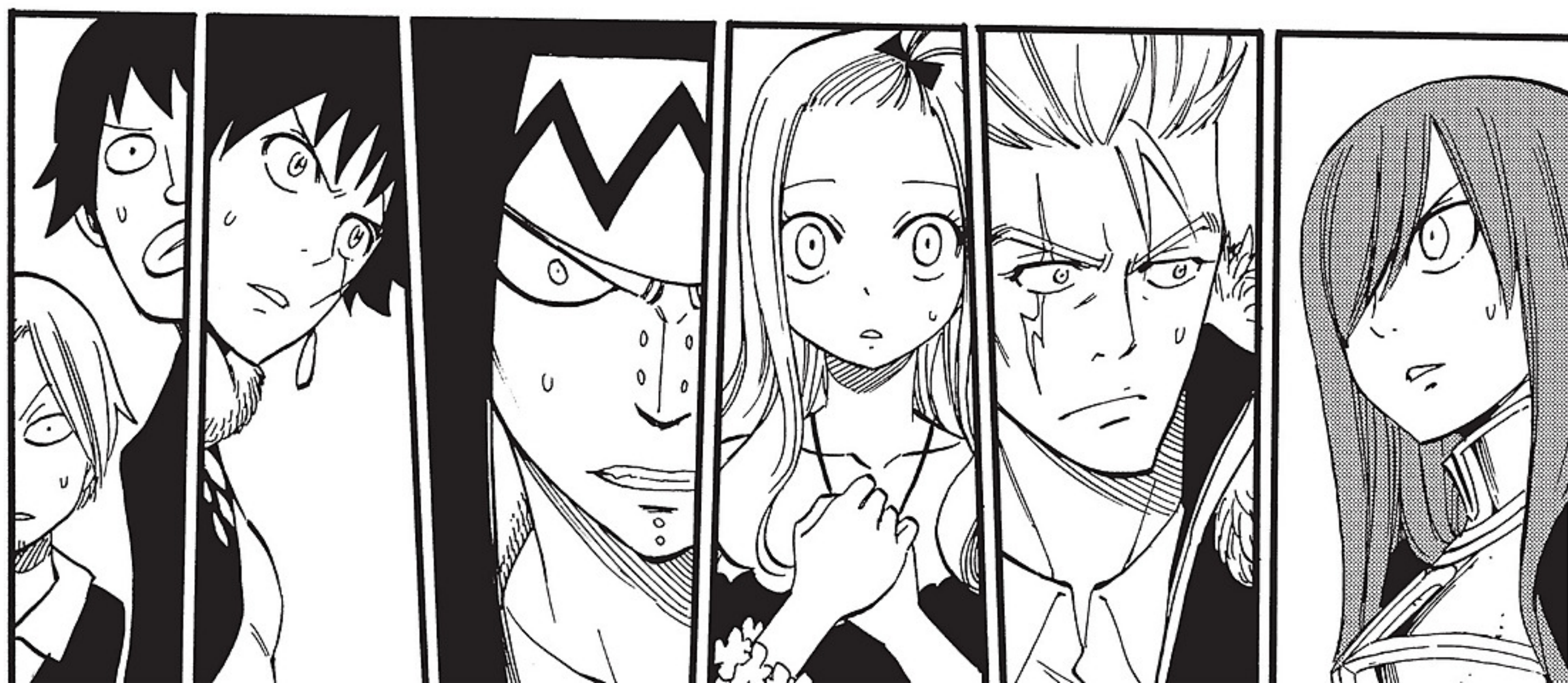
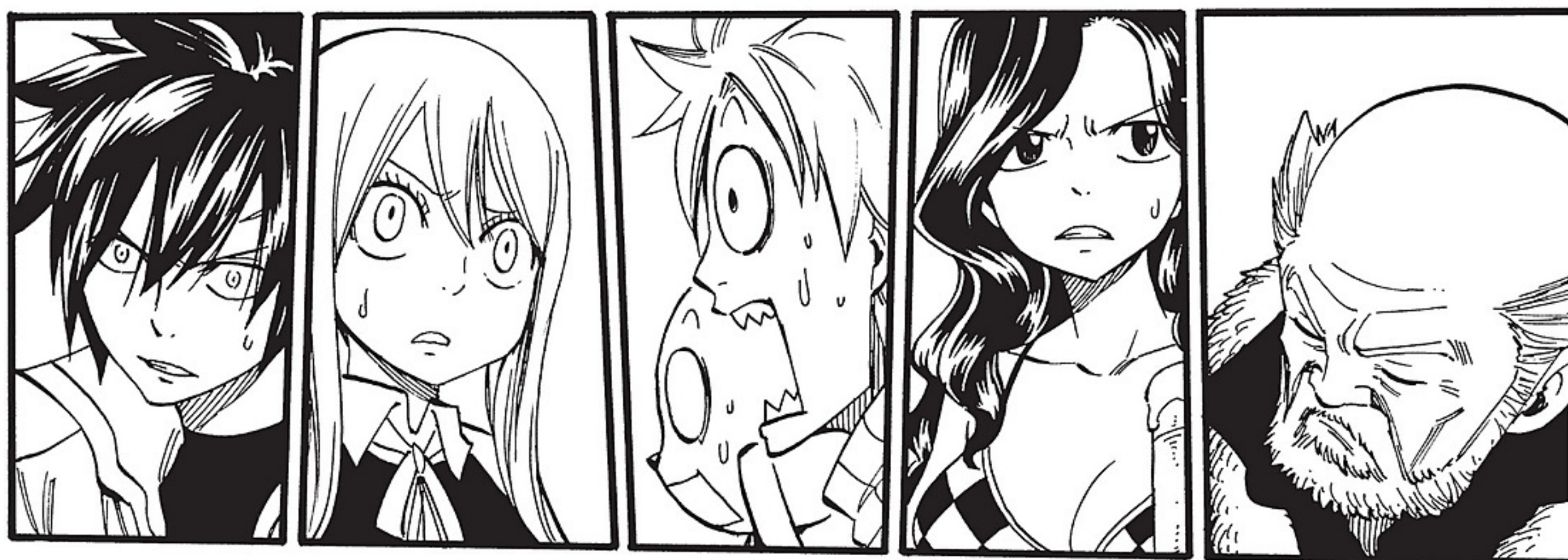
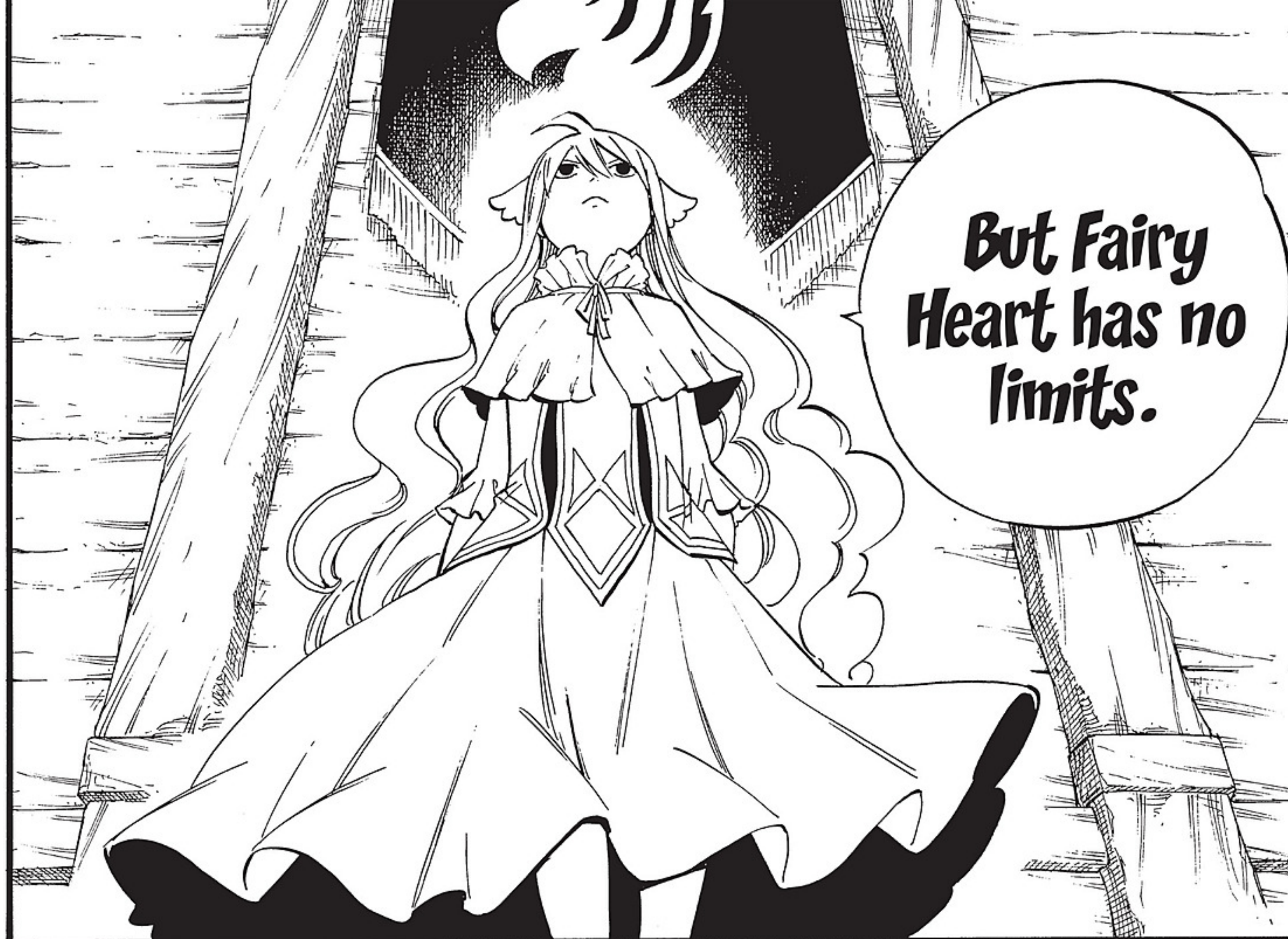


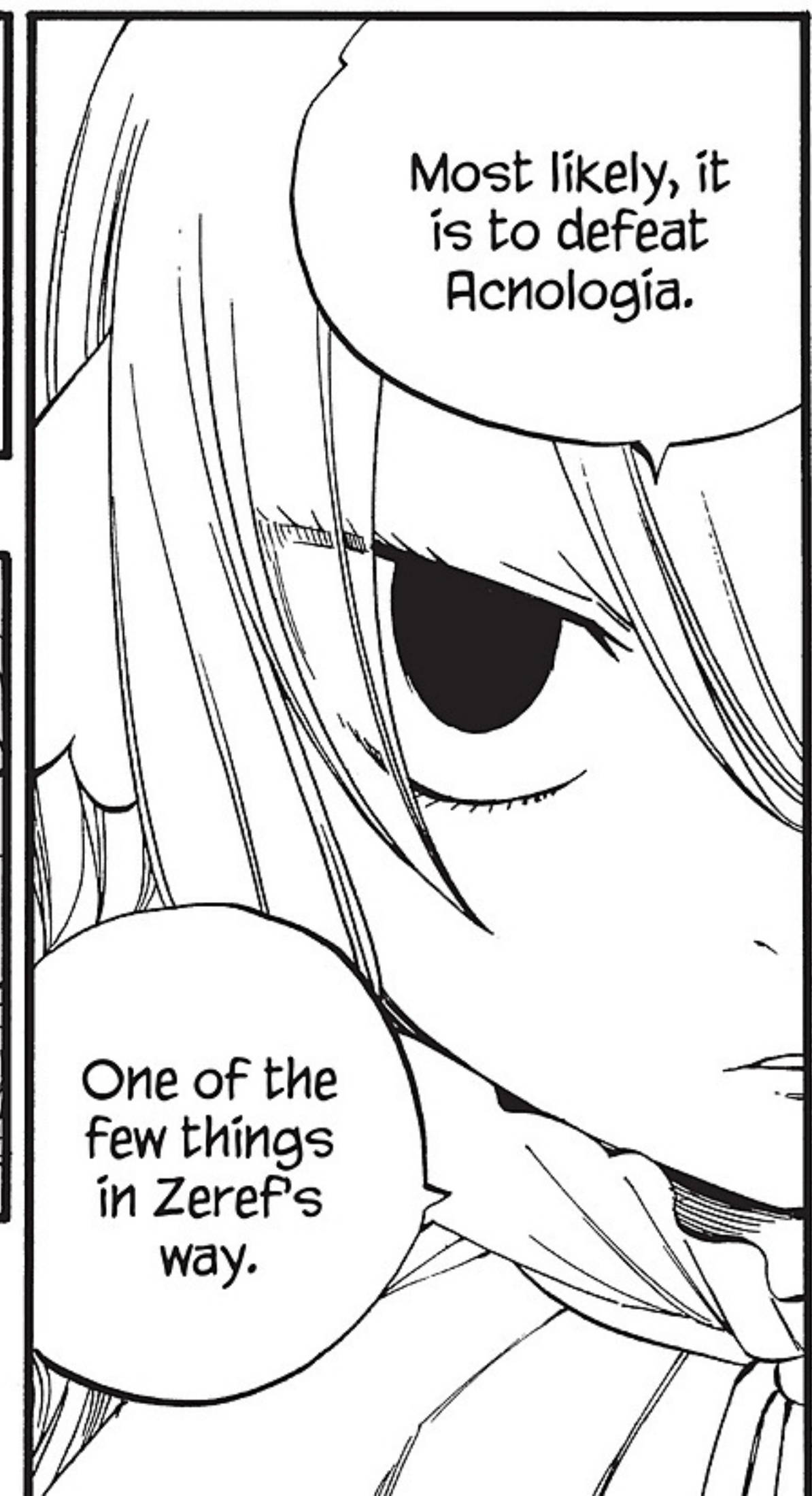
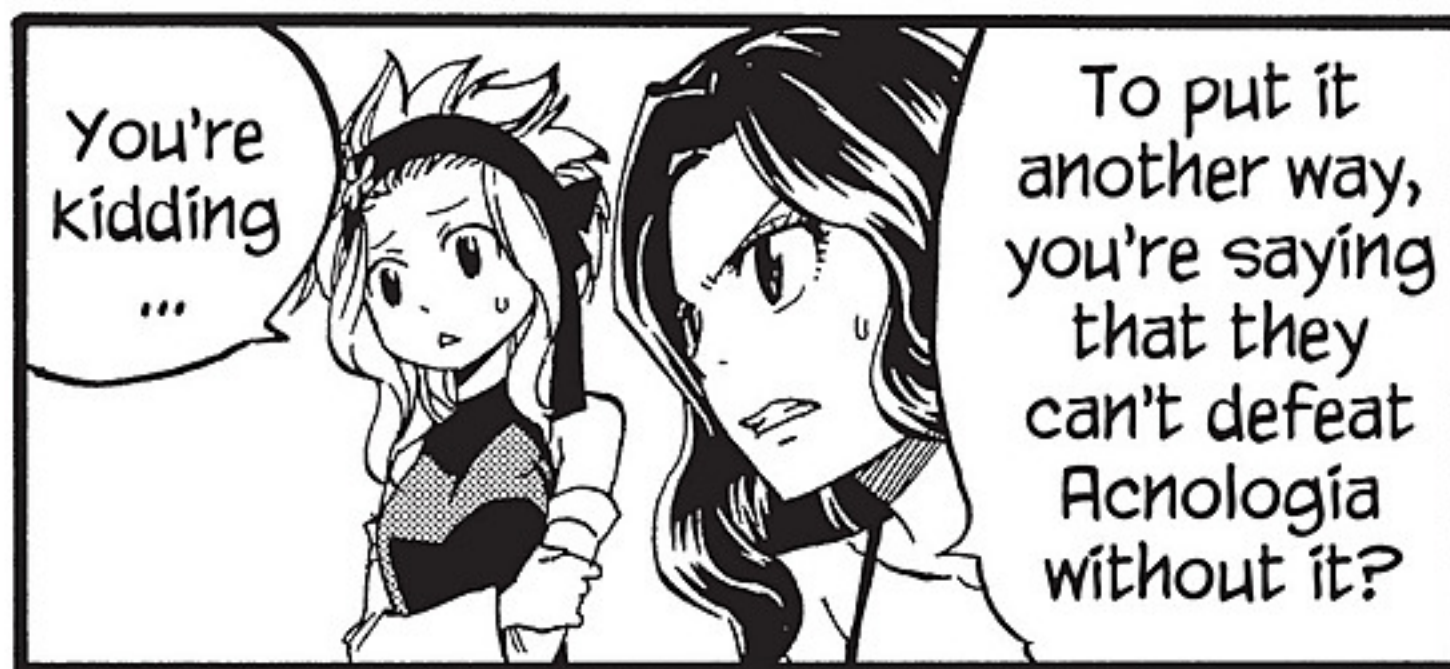
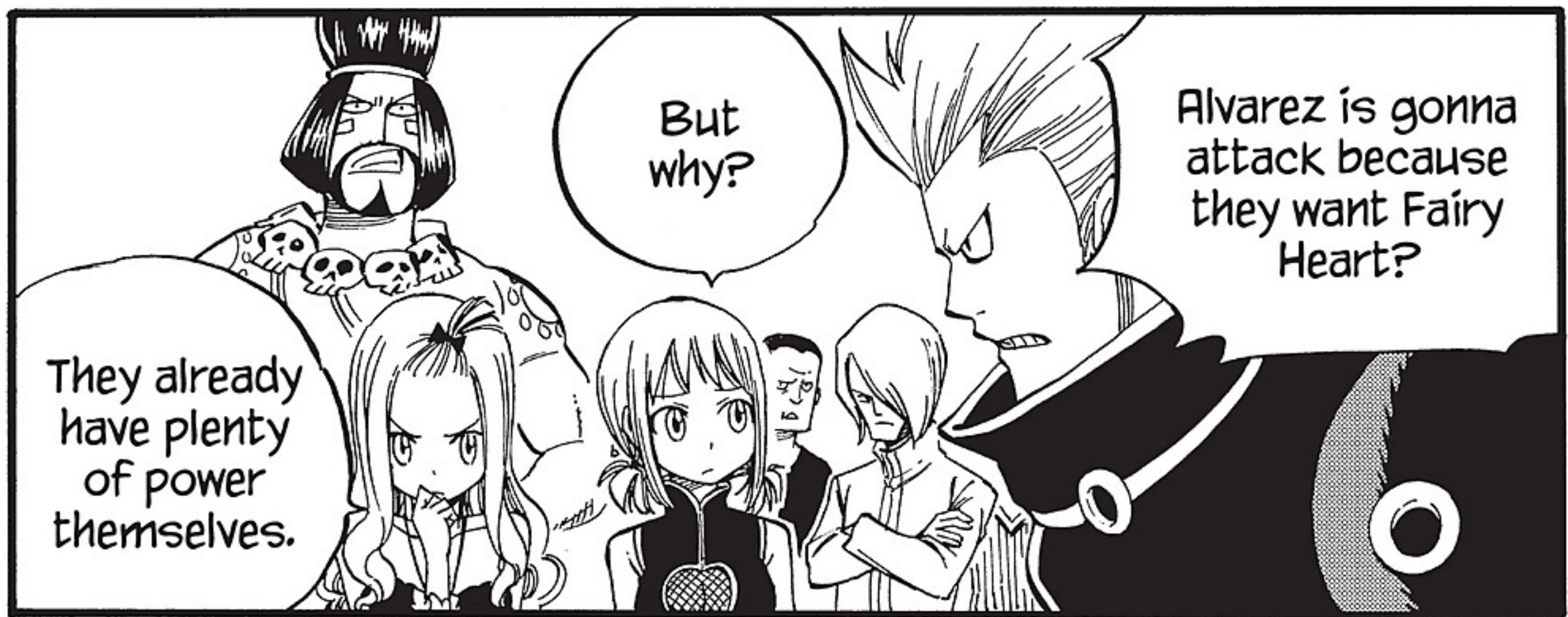
*Wh-
What is
happening
here...?*

**The
Perpetual
Magic,
Fairy
Heart.**











...!!!

Imagine
losing control
of an Etherion
with an infinite
power supply...
It would be
catastrophic...



But let's say
we do it, and
win one battle.
What happens
next?



Some would
certainly think
so. I once
thought about
using it to
defeat Face.



Yeah!
Damn
straight!!

Nothing
is worth un-
leashing Fairy
Heart on the
world.

Besides,
it's the first
master! We're
not turning
that over to
anybody!!



Our best
weapon would
become our
worst enemy.

I'm
sorry.

"Weapon"?
"Enemy"?
We're talking
about the
first master's
body!



I had always
hoped it
wouldn't bring
harm to the
guild.

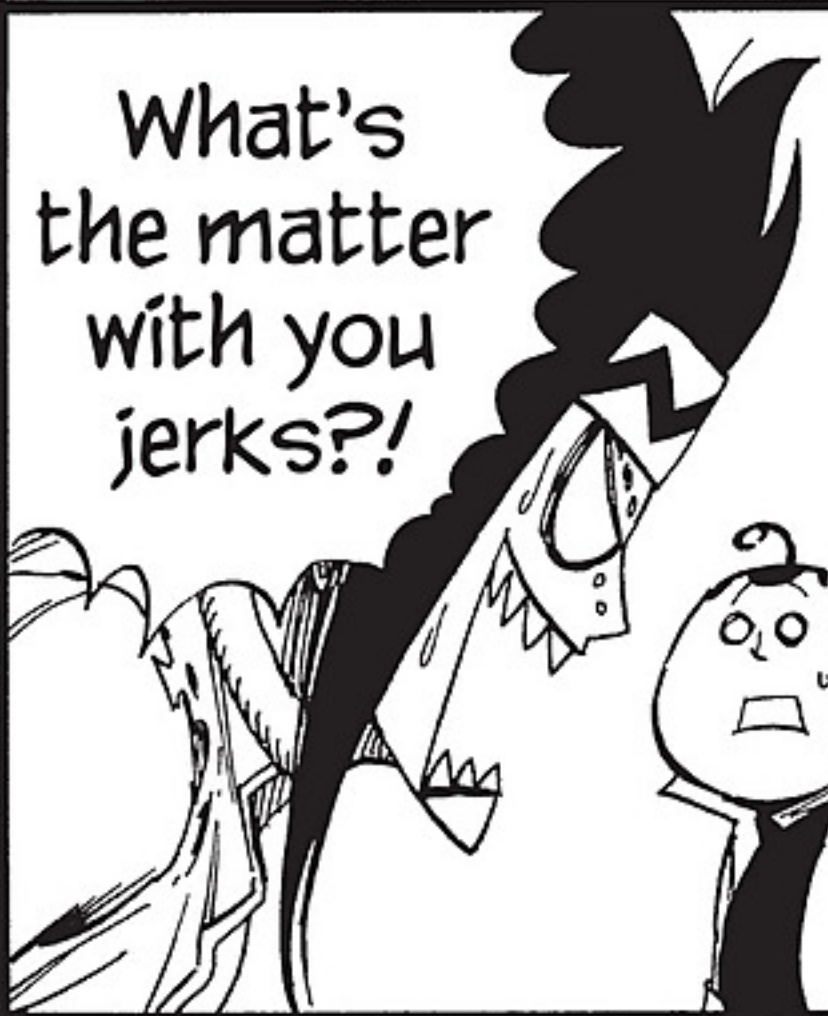
This magic
came from
my wrong-
doing...





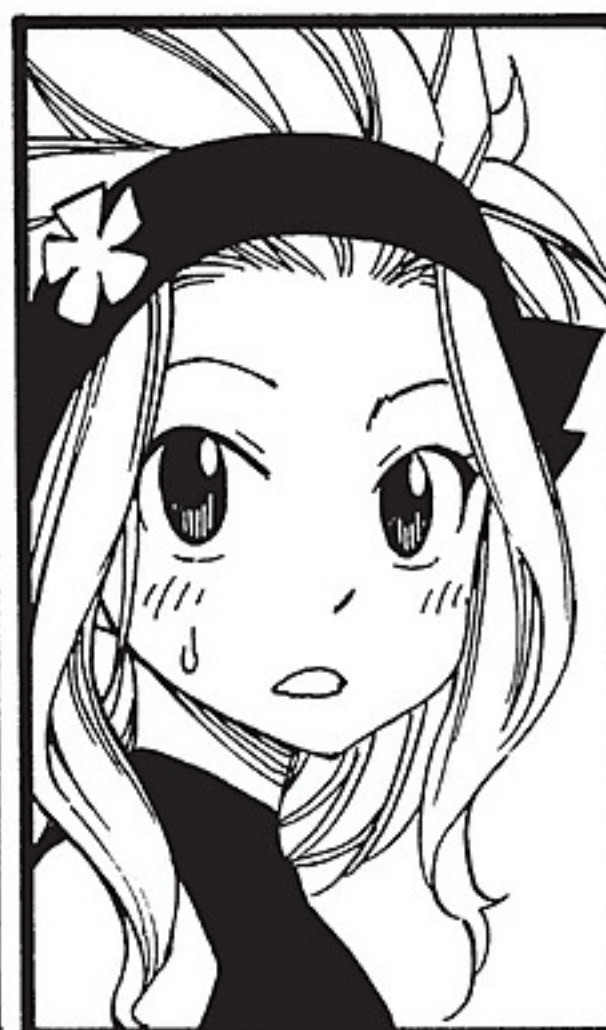
I ain't
gonna arrest
anybody for
that!

Where's the
crime in lovin'
someone
else?



What's
the matter
with you
jerks?!

GEH?



We all
want to
protect the
guild you
founded!

That's
why we're
ready to
fight!



First Master,
you're the one
who connected
us all!



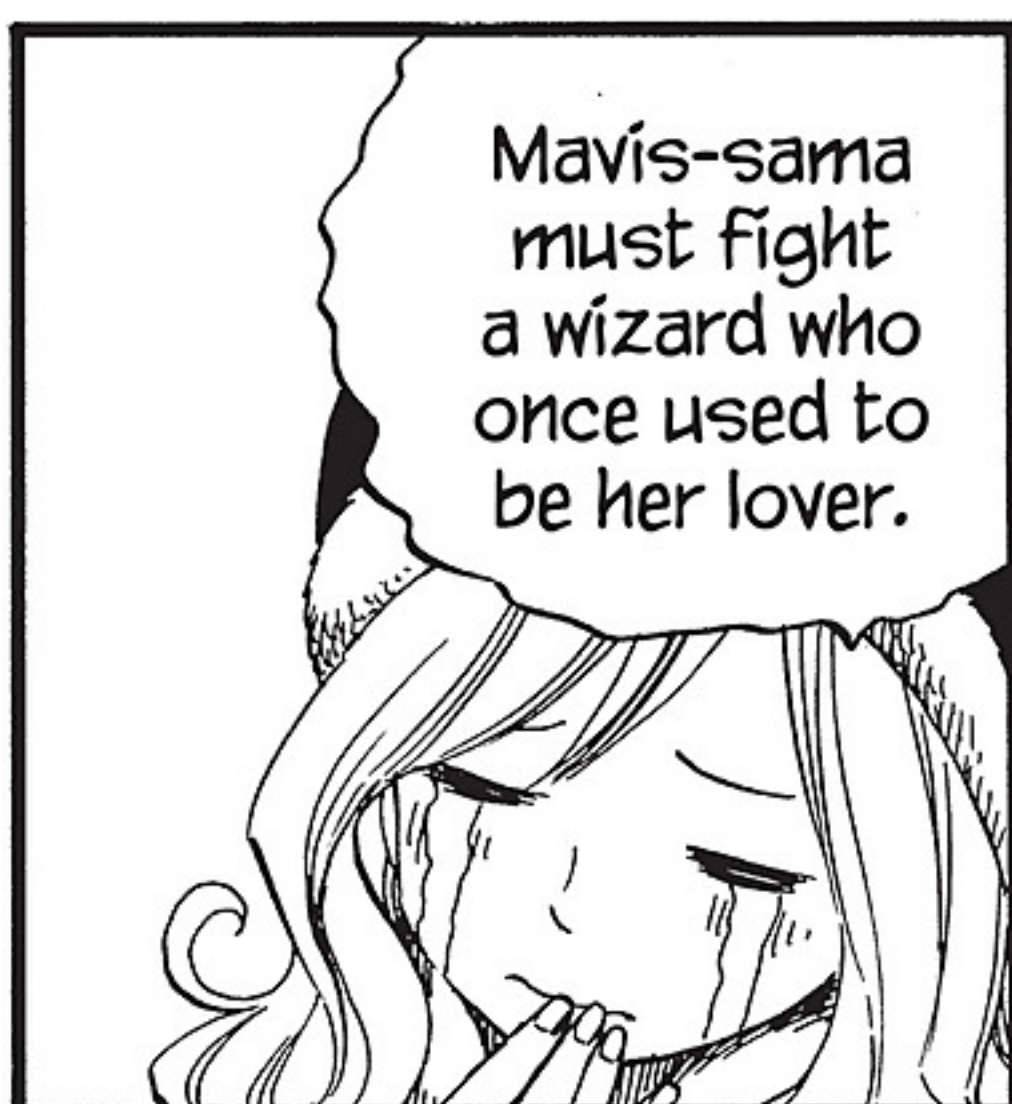
If it weren't
for you, Fairy
Tail wouldn't
exist.

And that
means we'd
never have met
each other!



First
Master,
please
refrain from
blaming
yourself.

Yes, a
bunch of
awful things
just kept
happening,
that's all.



Mavis-sama
must fight
a wizard who
once used to
be her lover.



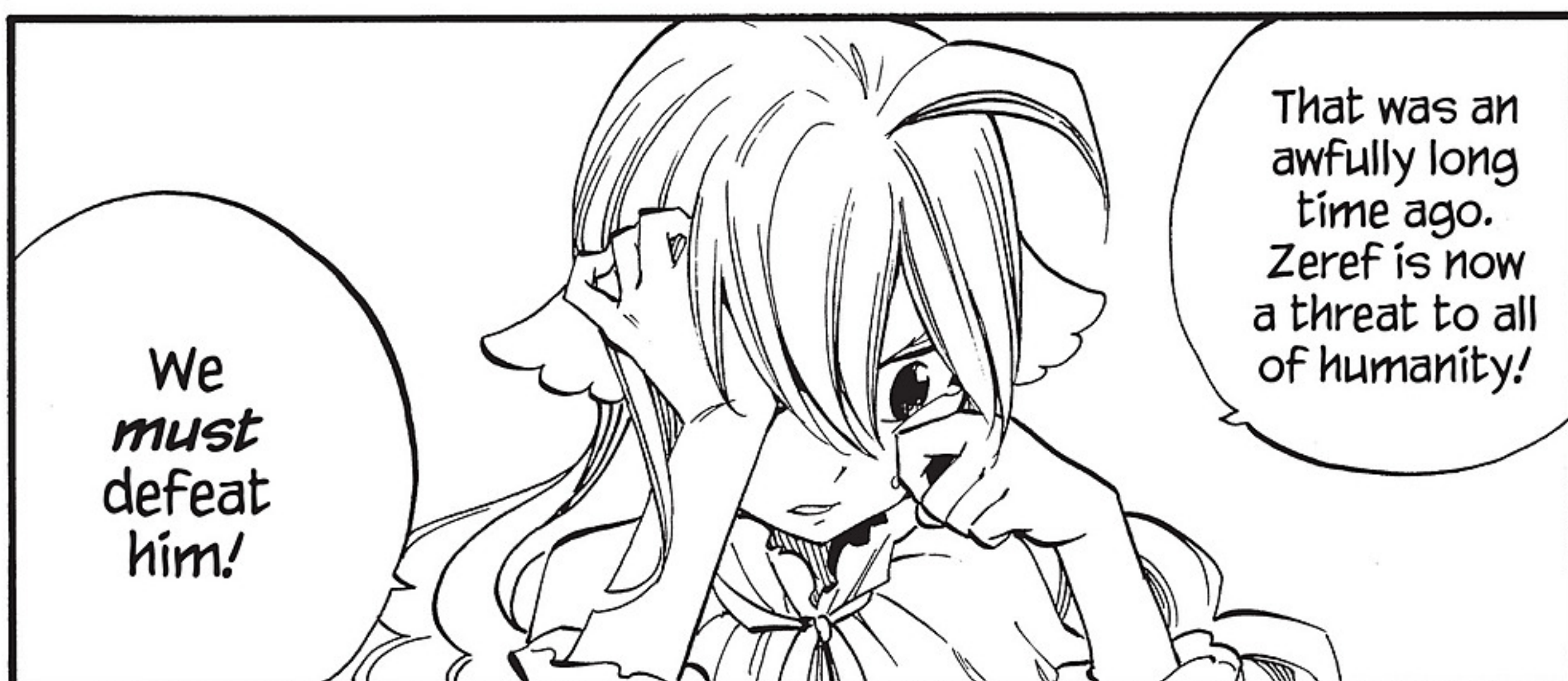
Wha-?!
get up
get up
get up

SNIFF
SNIFF



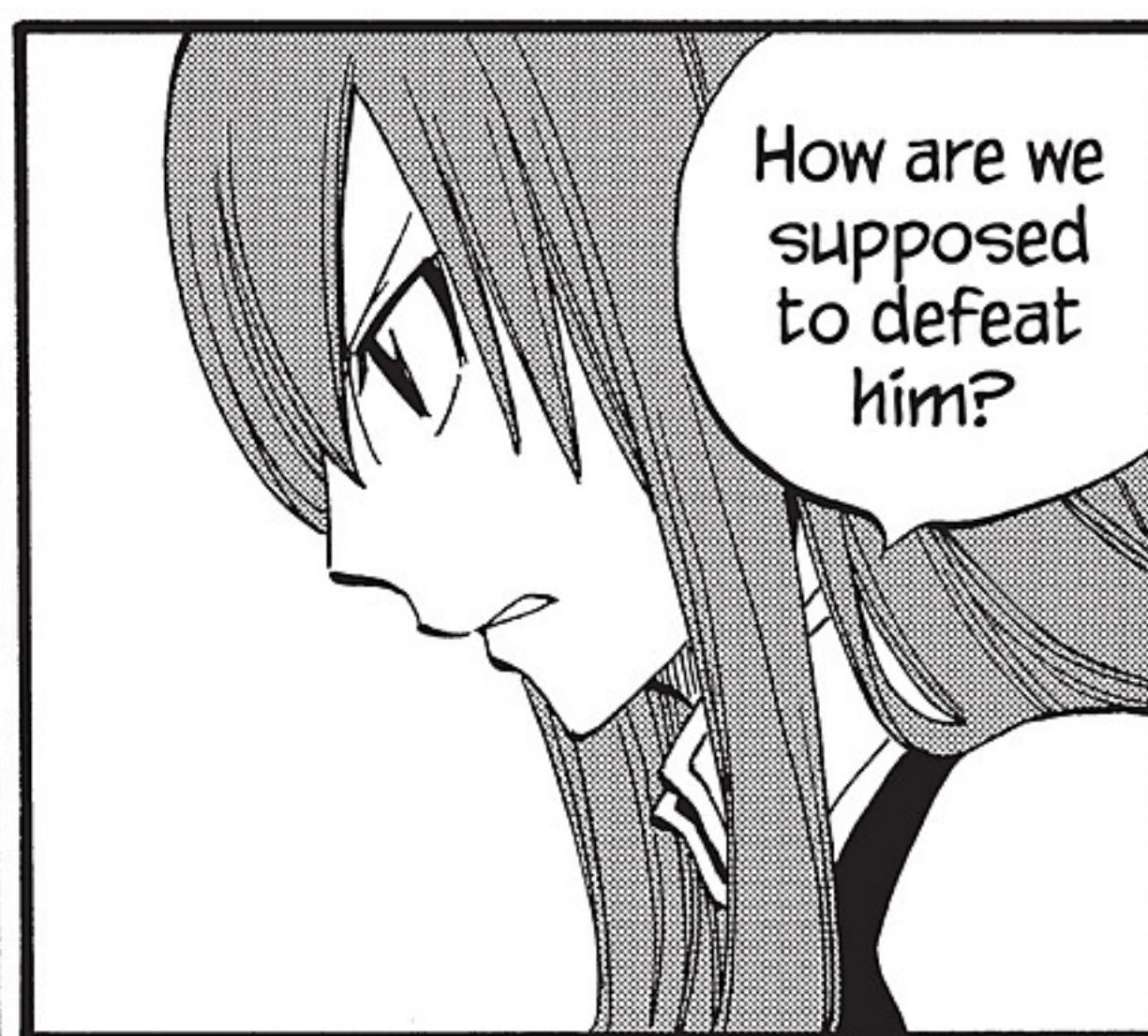
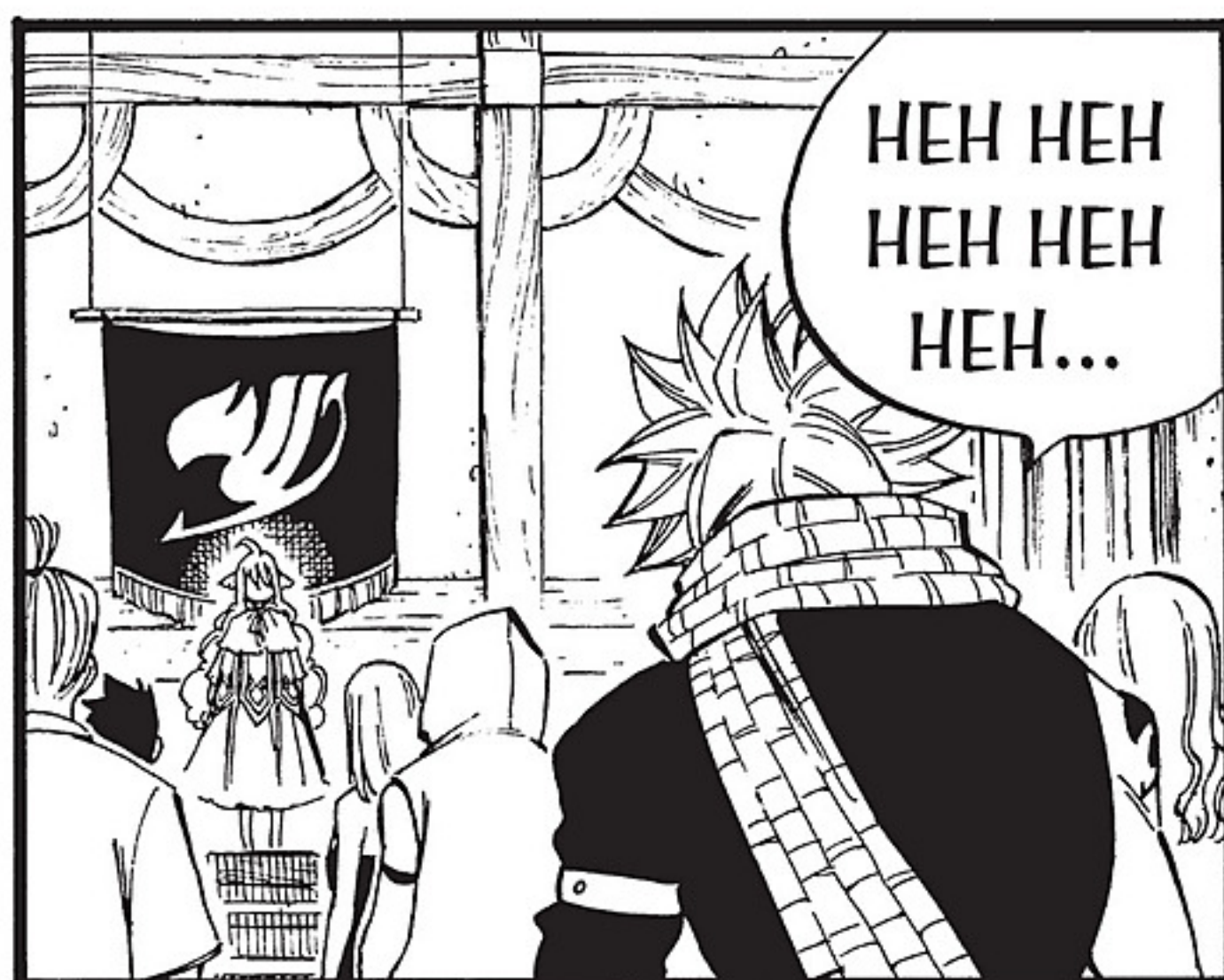
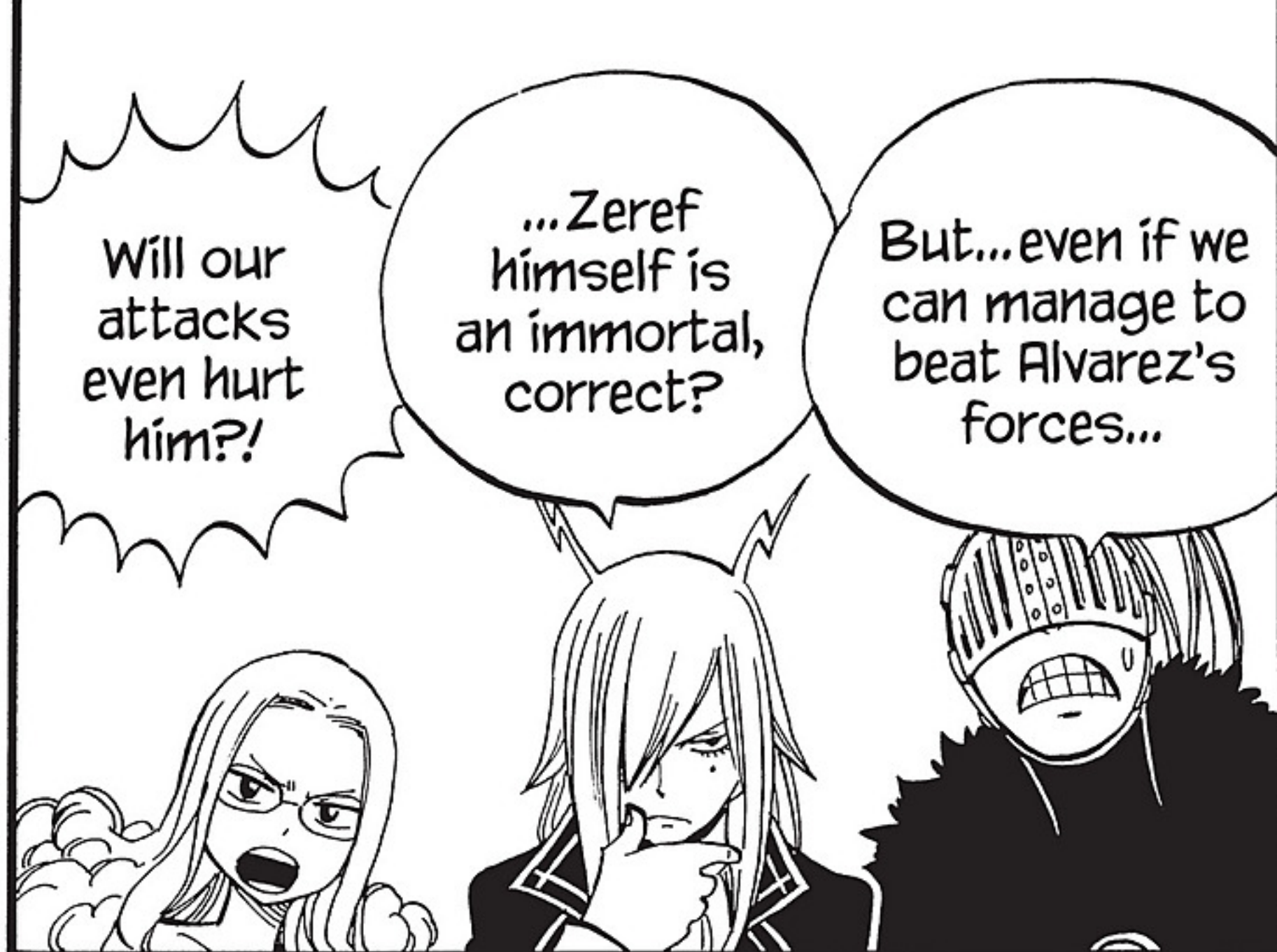
You've
created an
excellent
guild...

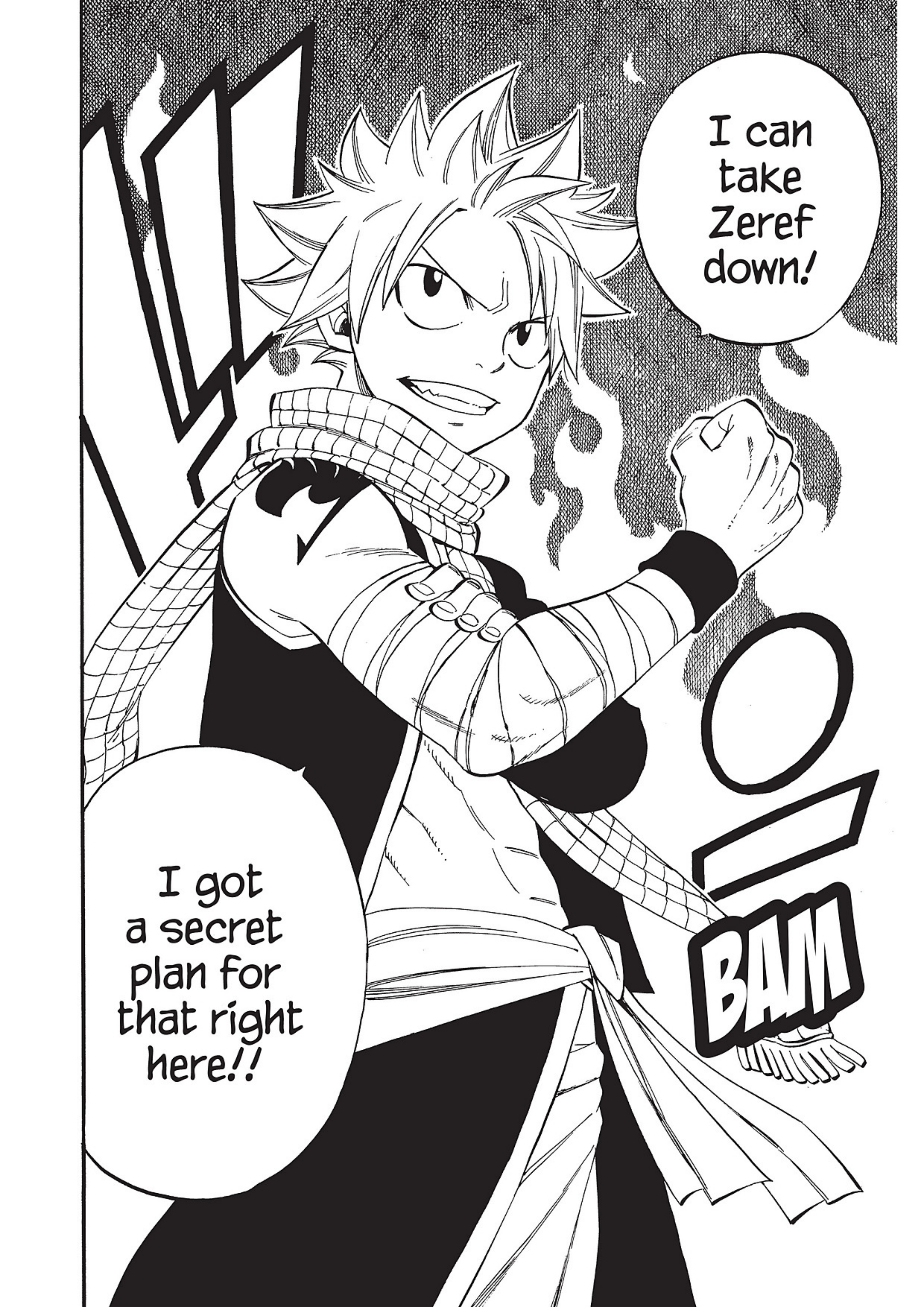
...First
Master!



We
must
defeat
him!

That was an
awfully long
time ago.
Zeref is now
a threat to all
of humanity!





I can
take
Zeref
down!

I got
a secret
plan for
that right
here!!

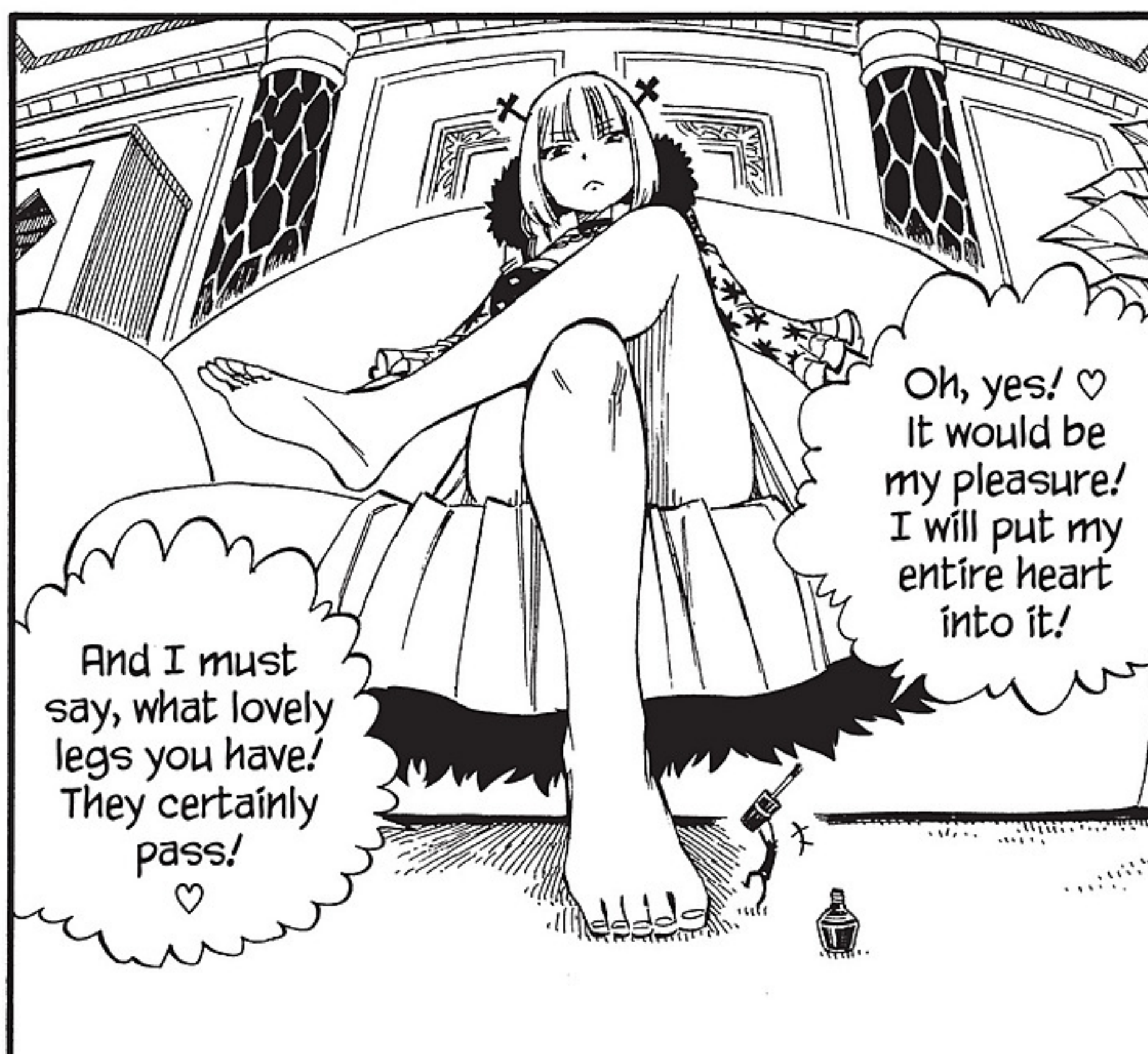
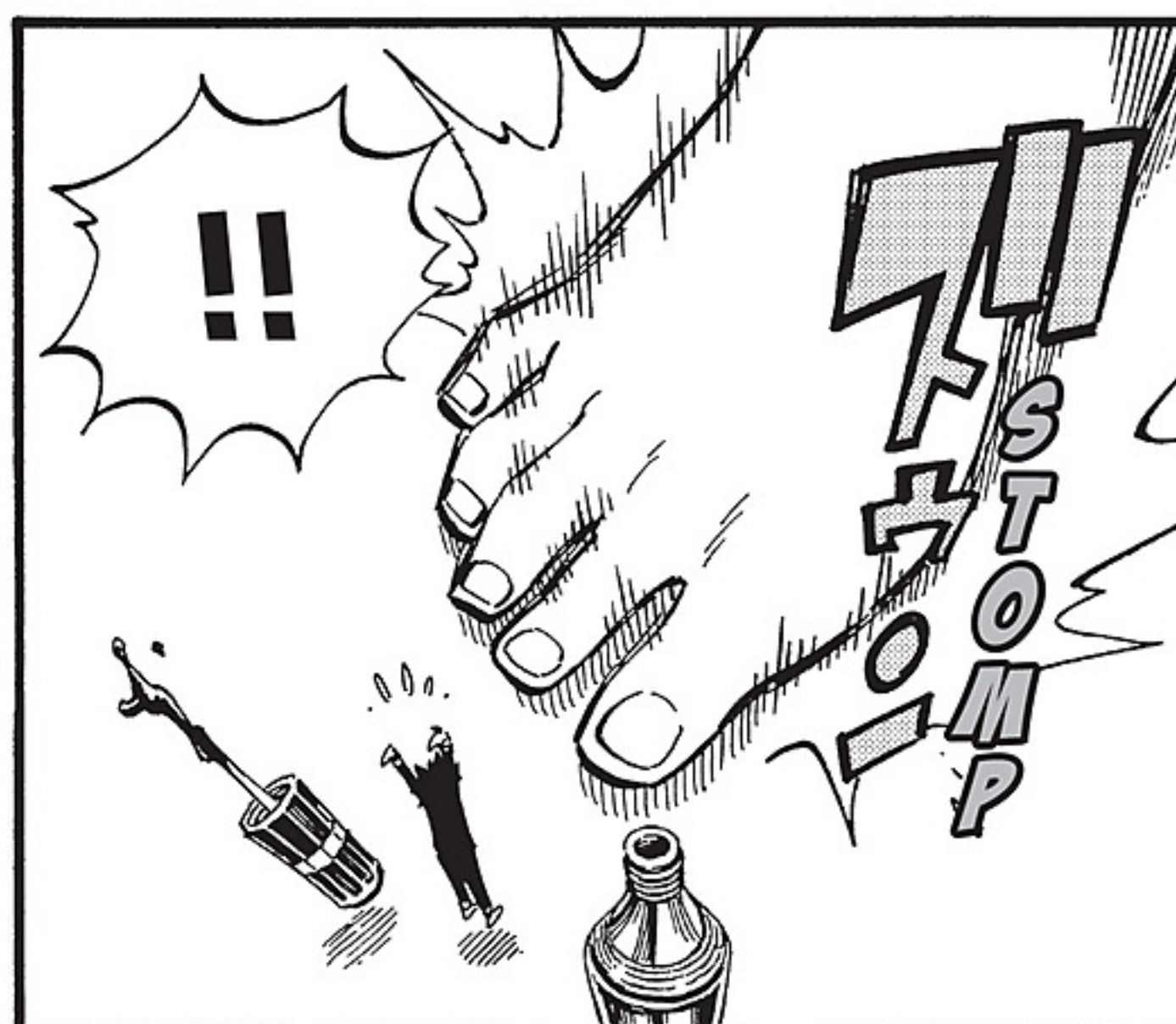
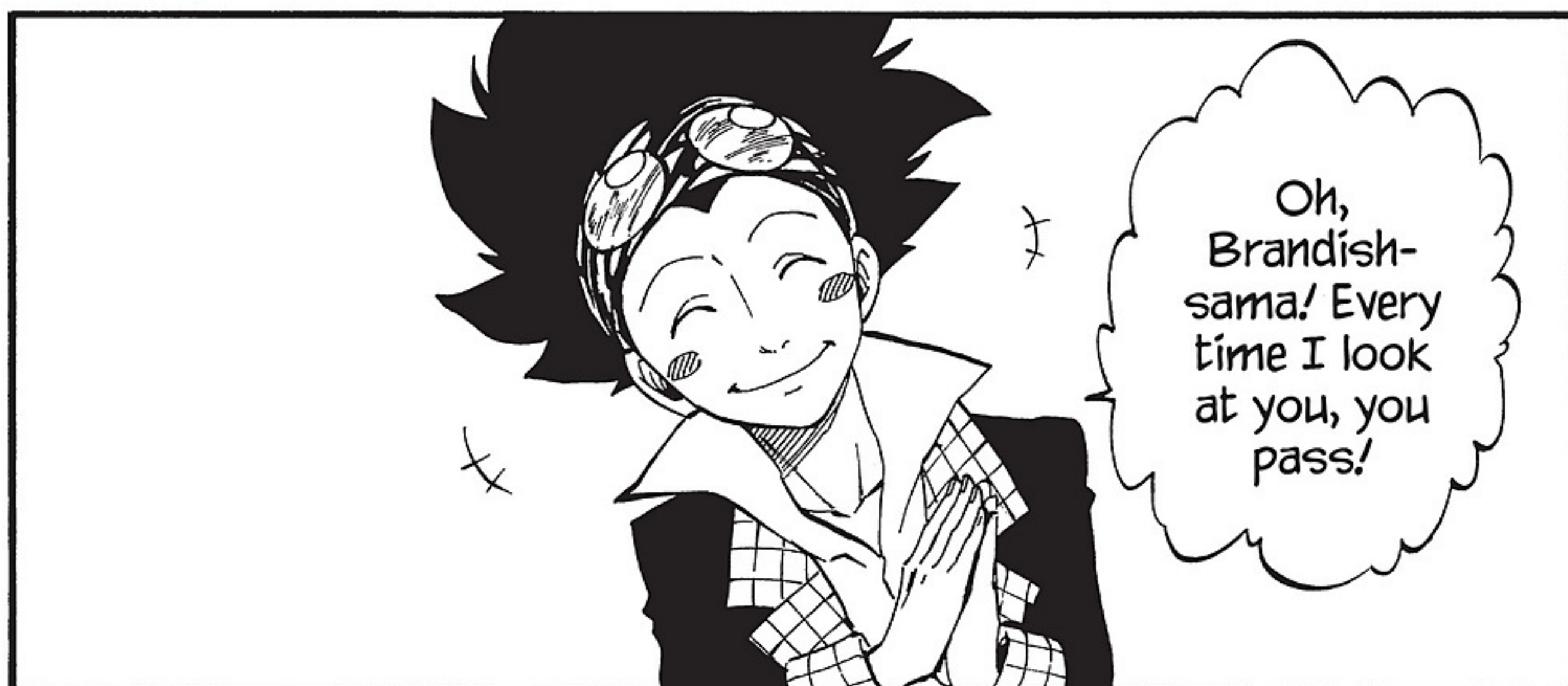
BAM

FAIRY TAIL

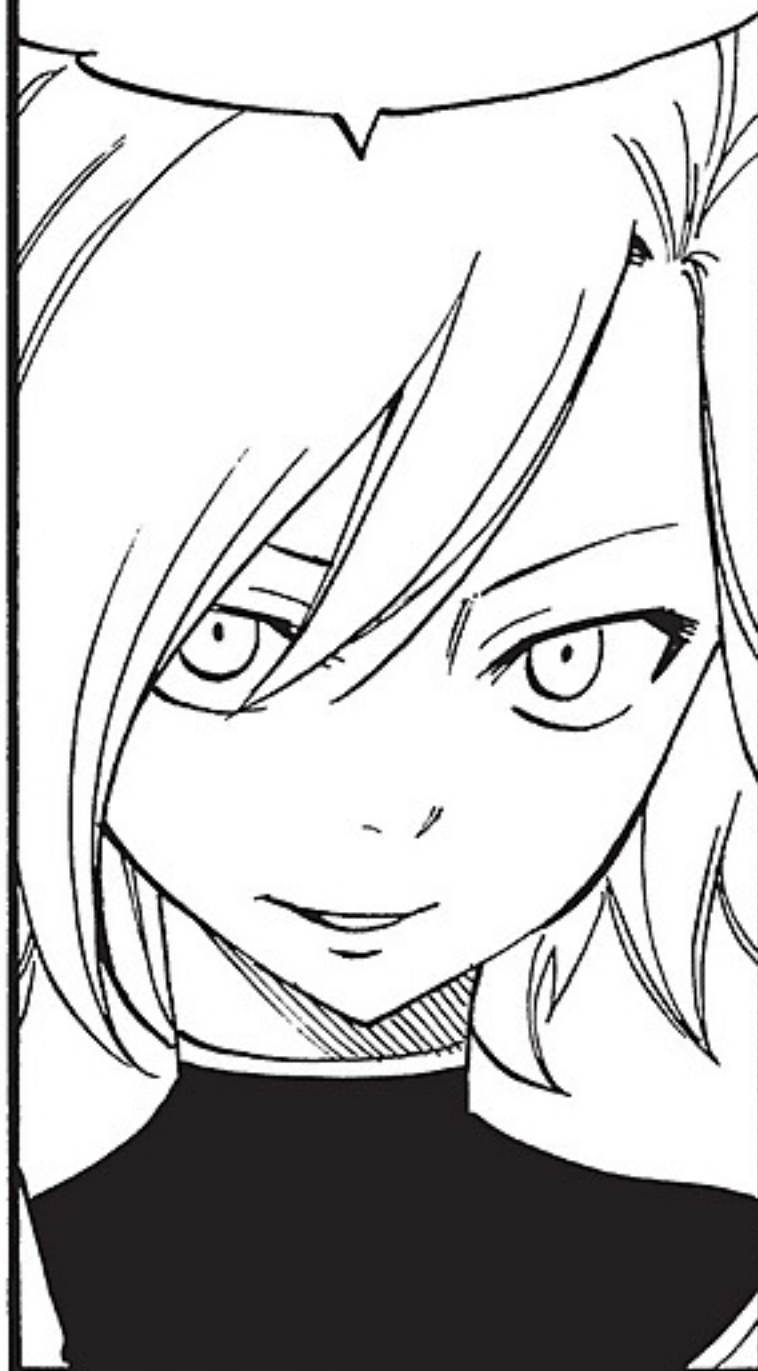


Chapter 452: Prelude to the Final Battle



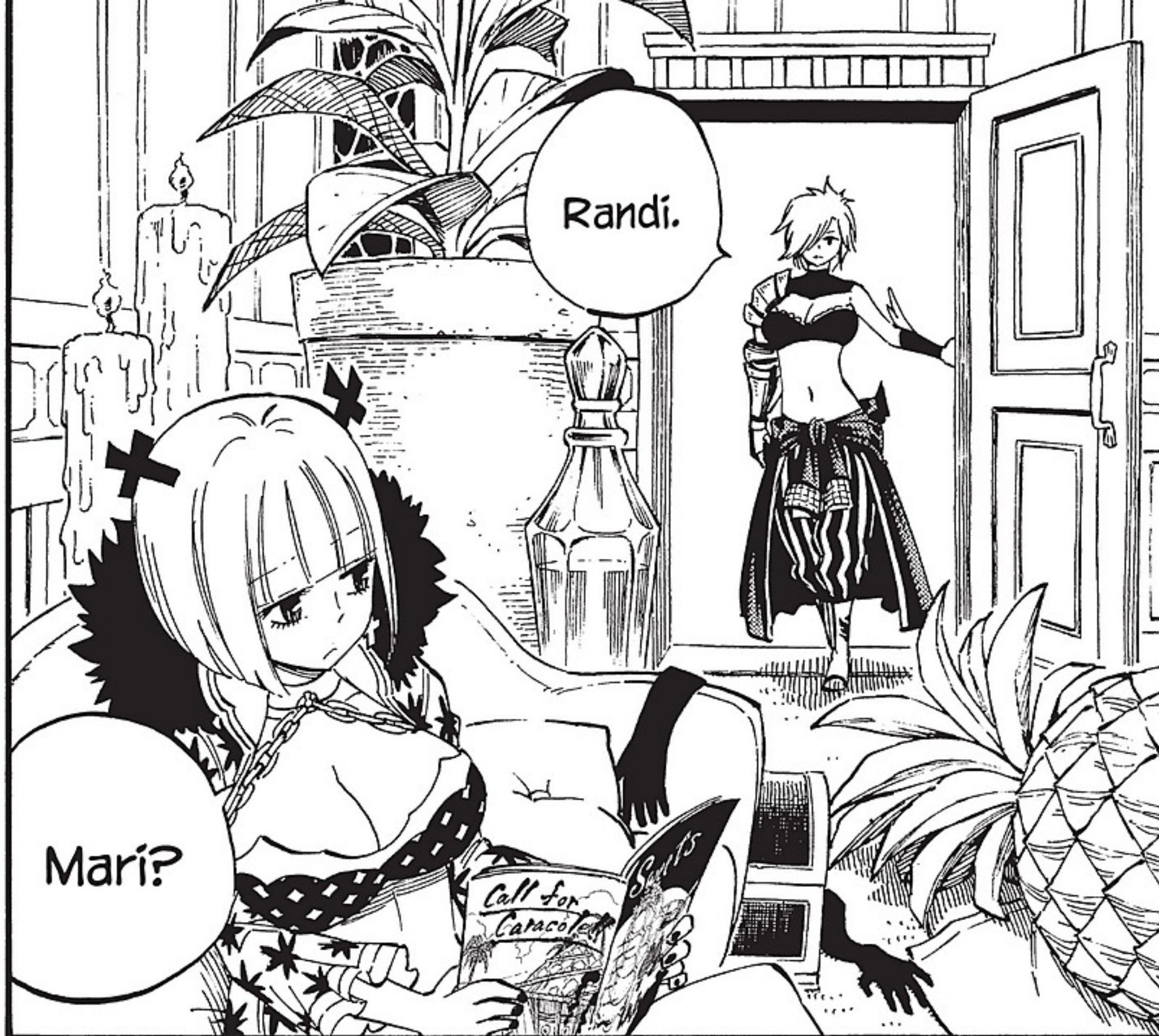


I heard you let
some enemies go?
Everyone's talking
about it.



Randi.

Mari?



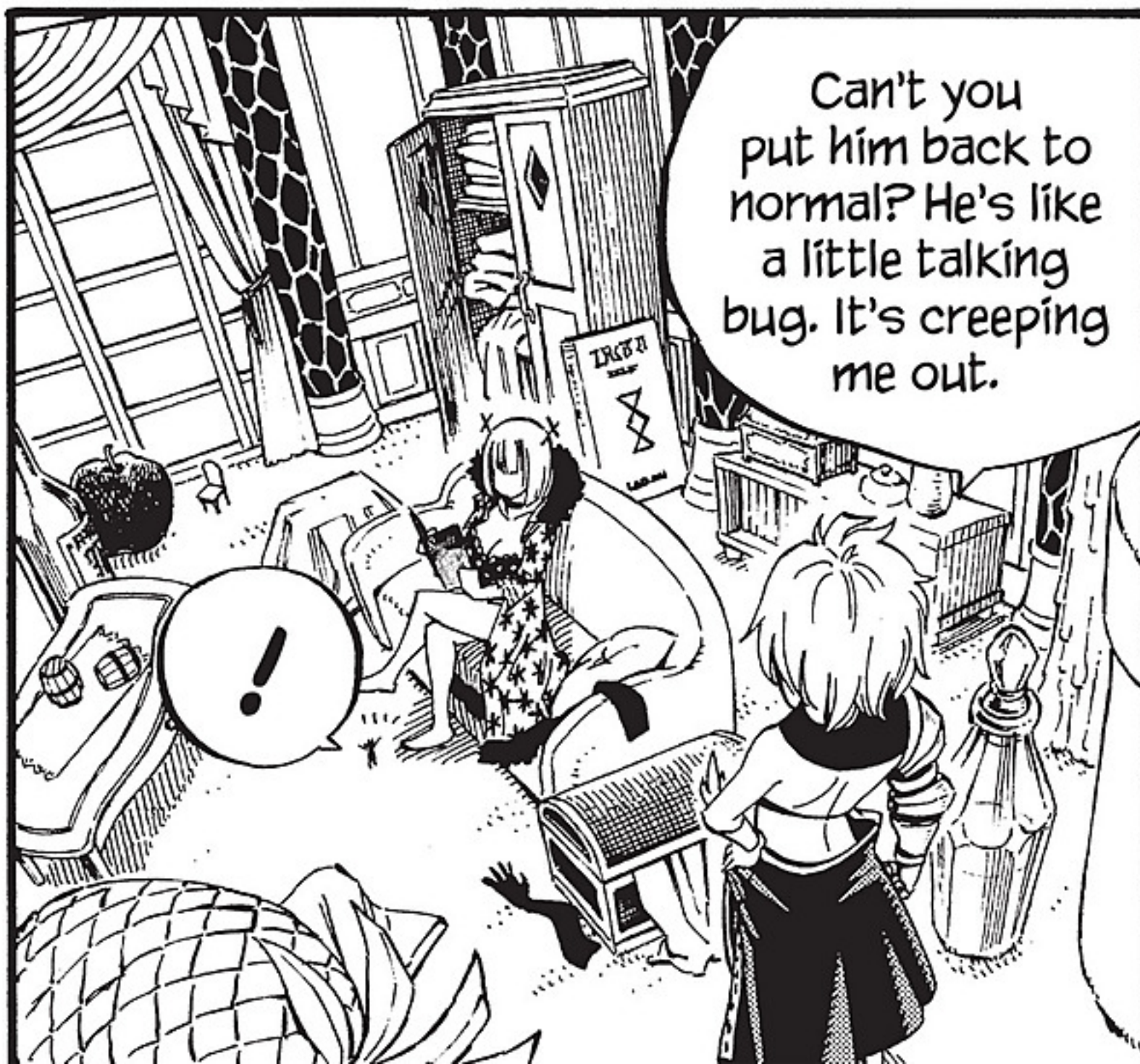
They were
a pain, so
I let them
be.



I let no
one *go*.

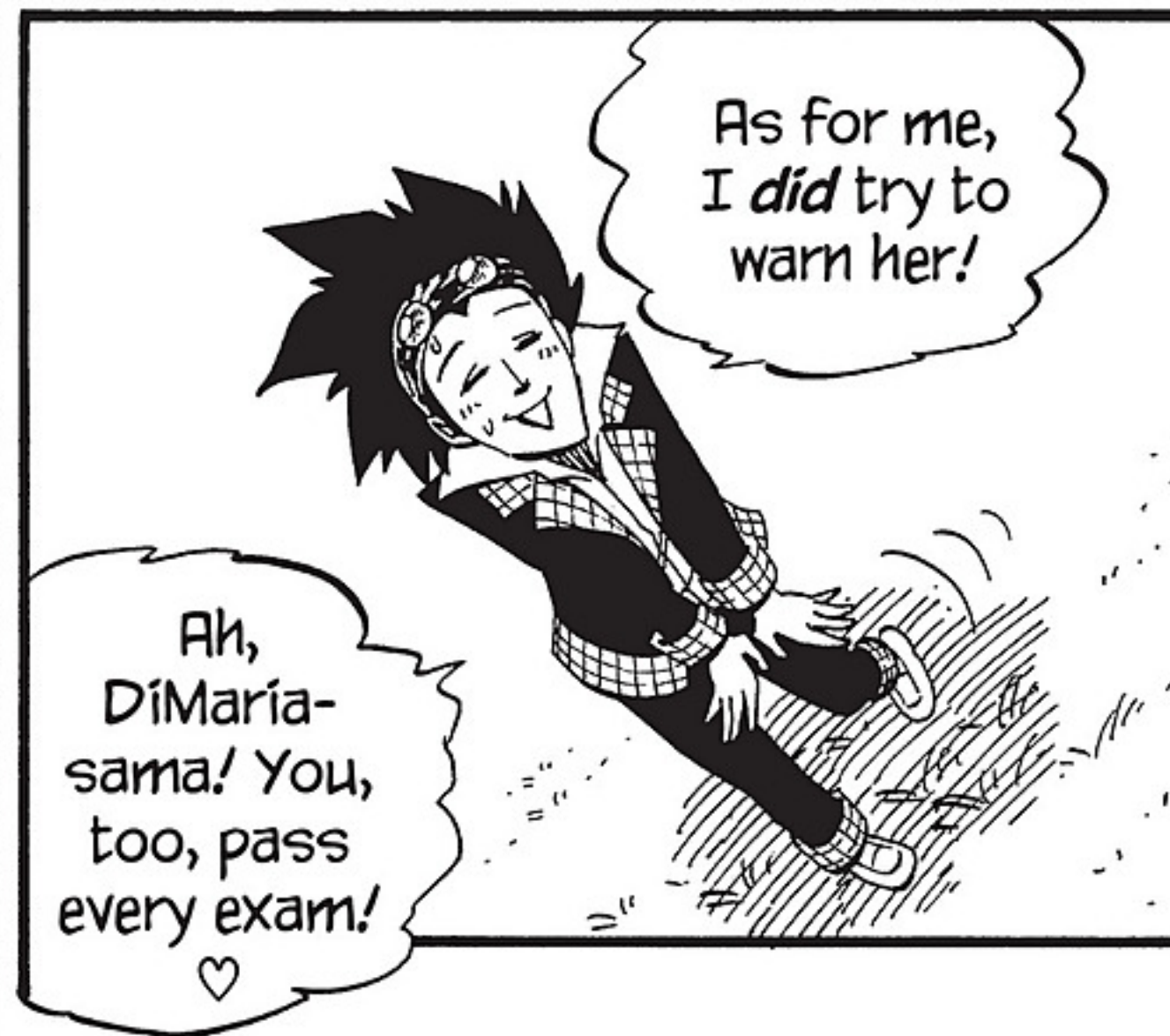


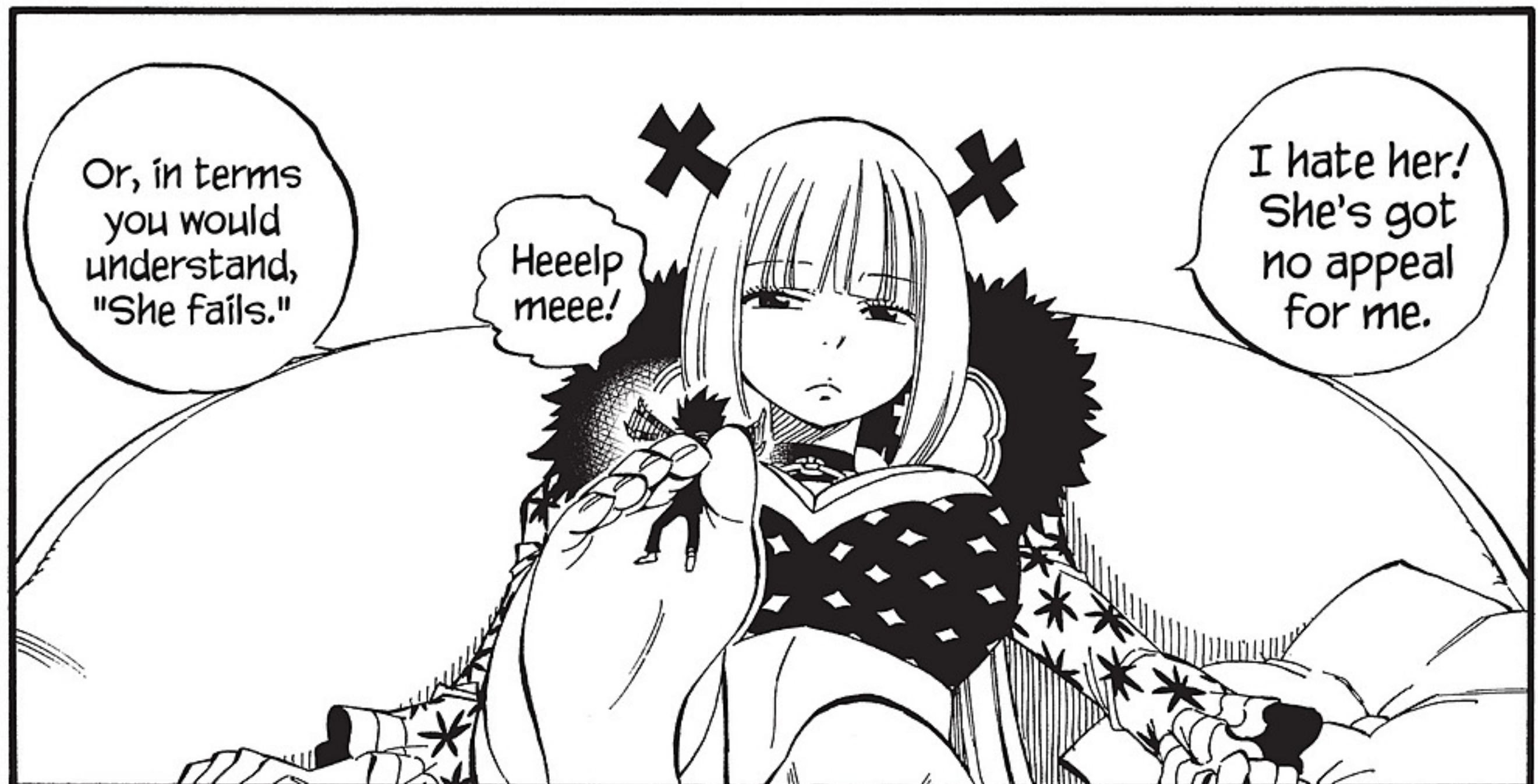
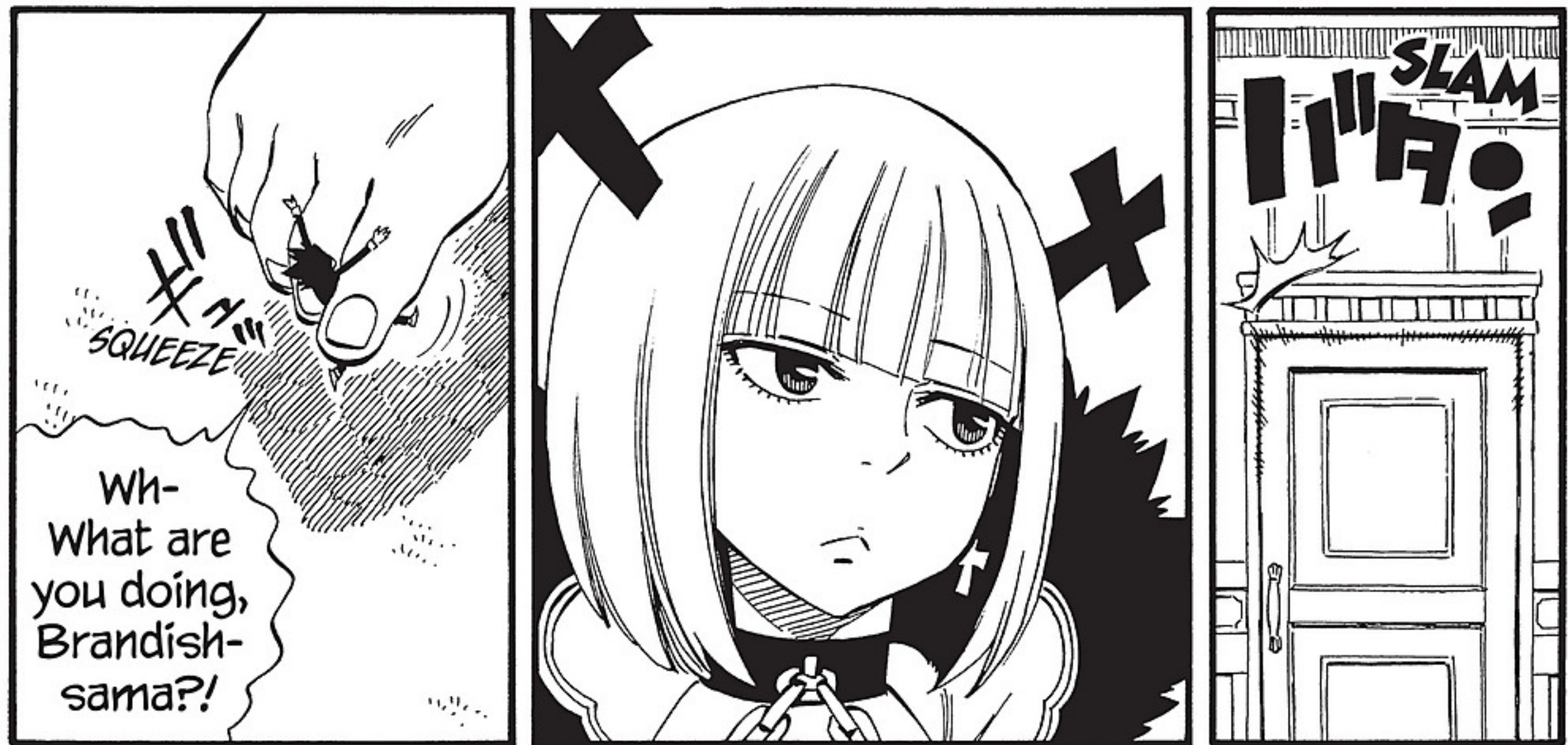
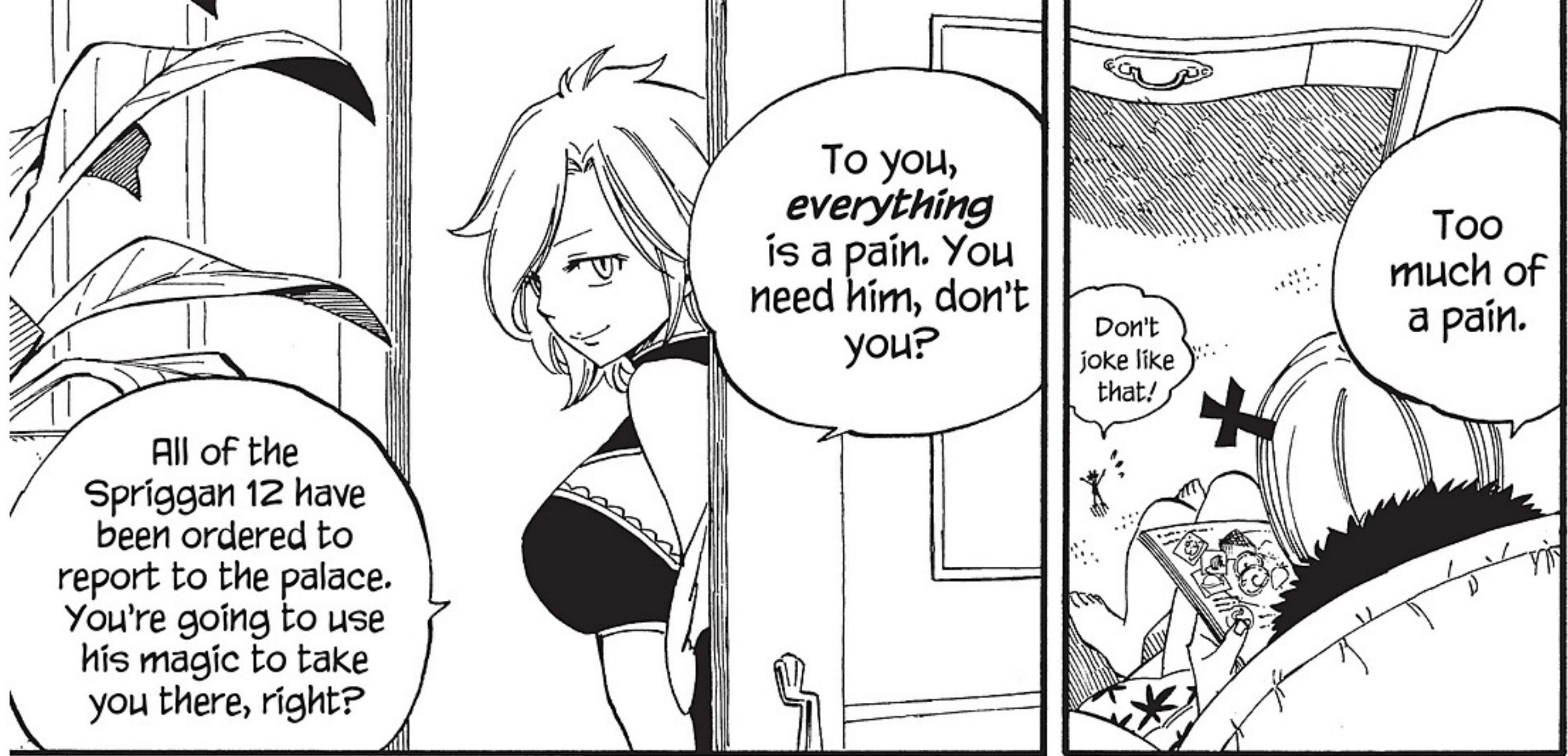
Can't you
put him back to
normal? He's like
a little talking
bug. It's creeping
me out.

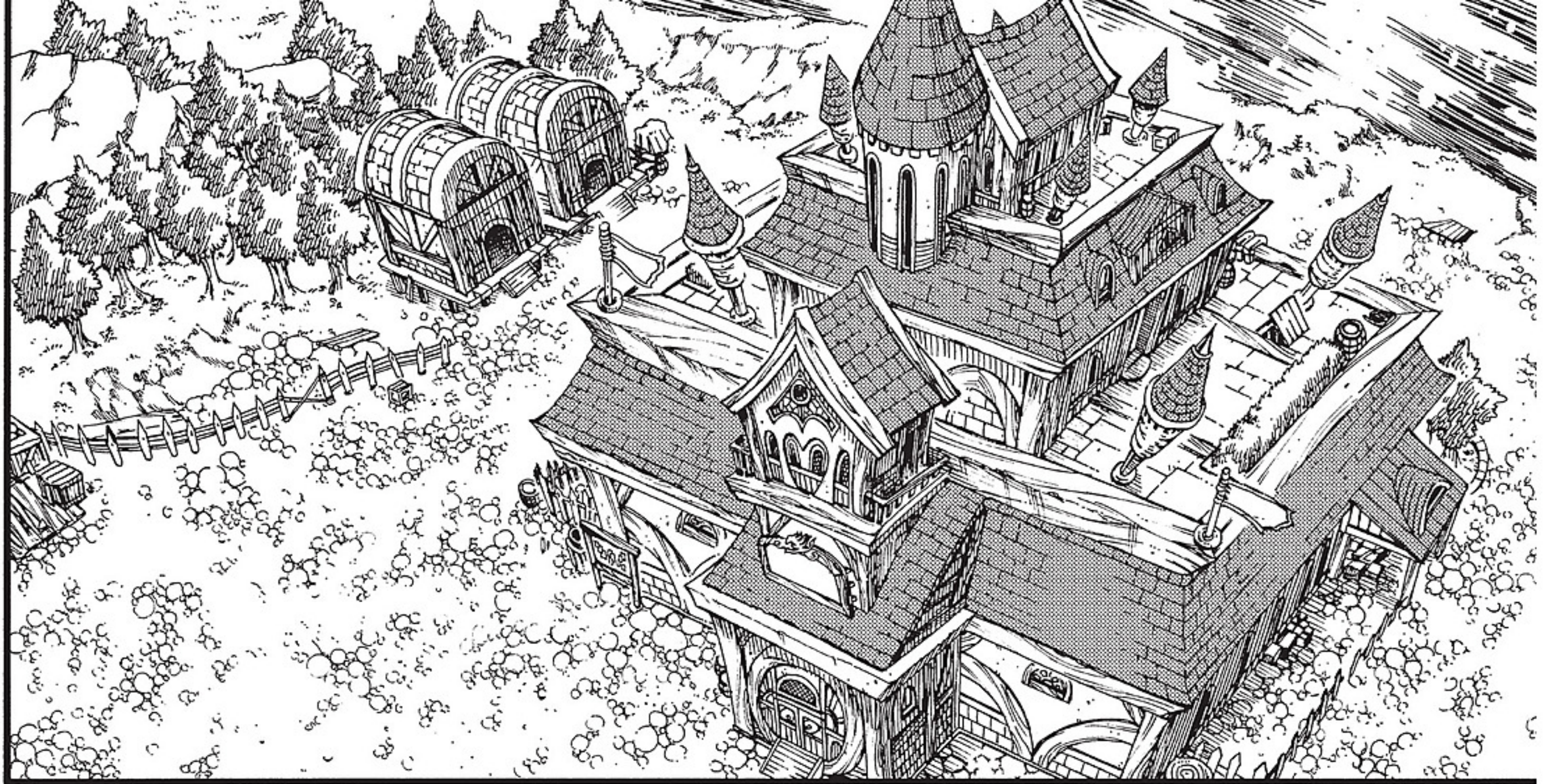


As for me,
I *did* try to
warn her!

Ah,
DiMaría-
sama! You,
too, pass
every exam!
♡







SHIING

Can't tell ya!

If I did, it wouldn't be a secret anymore!

What is this "secret plan" of yours?

So?

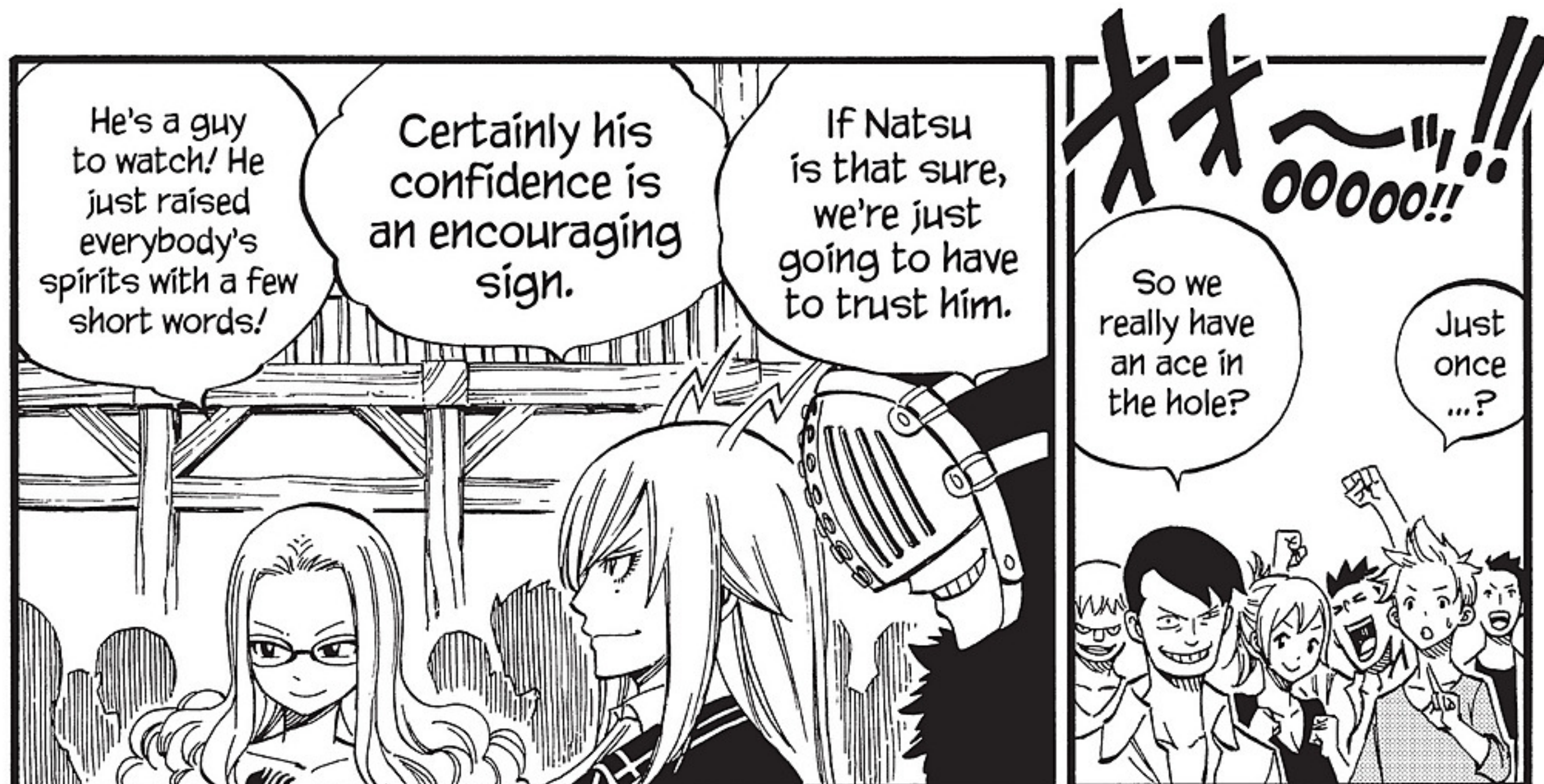
But...since it's Natsu-san, it has to be a pretty incredible trump card.

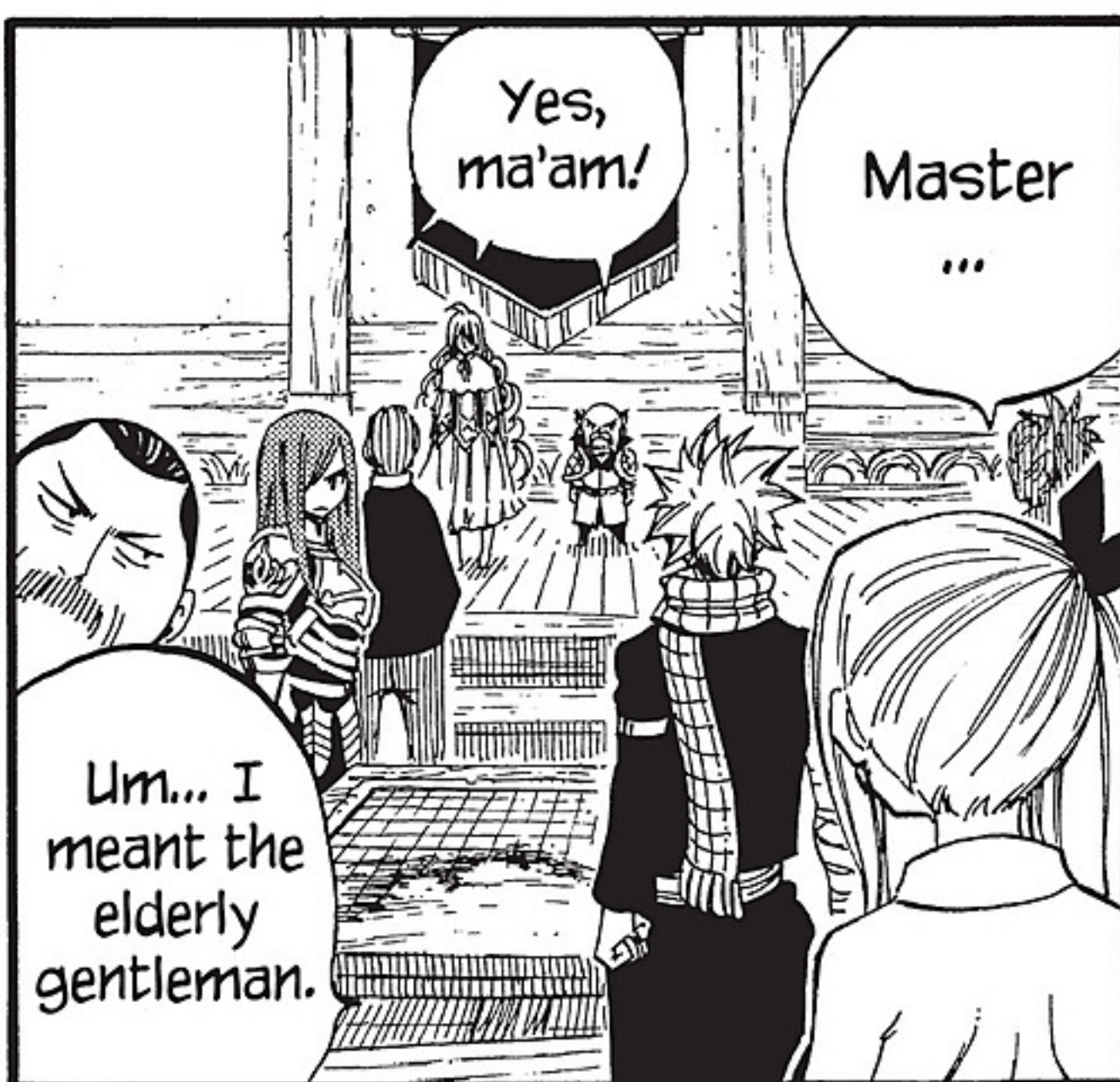
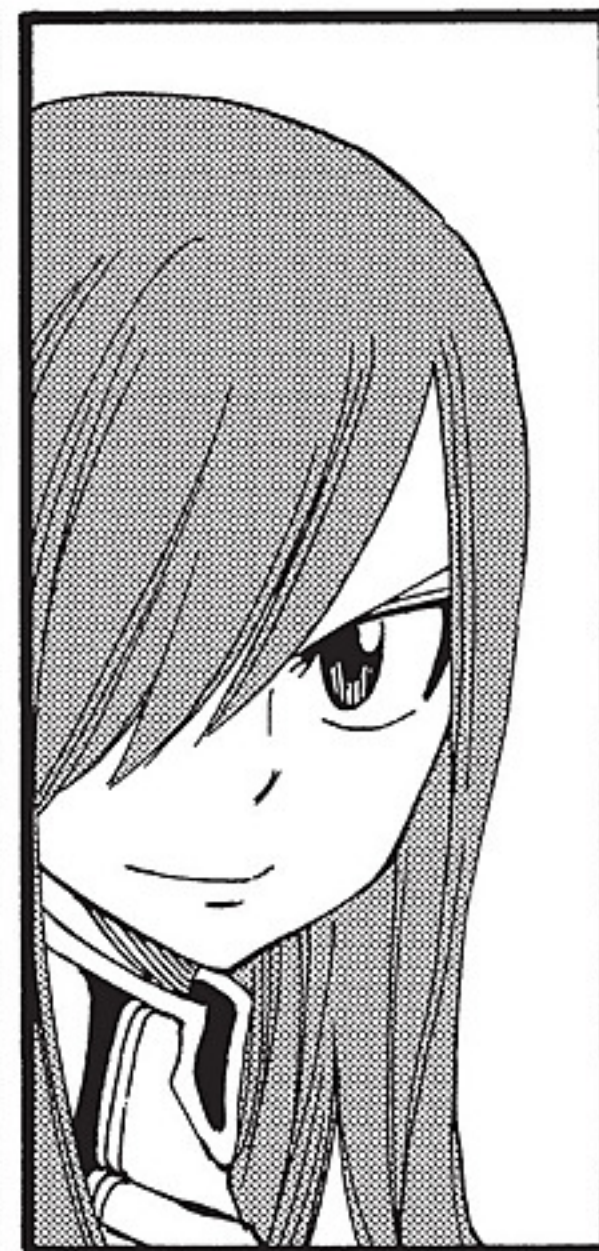
I want to know!

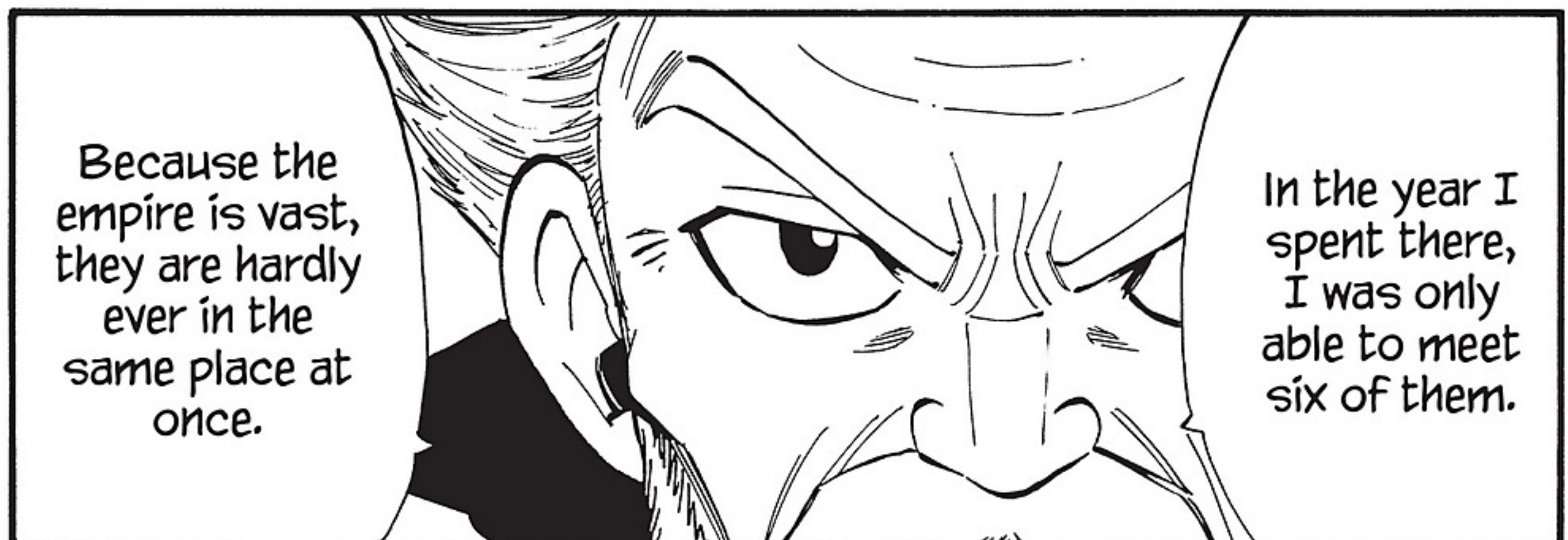
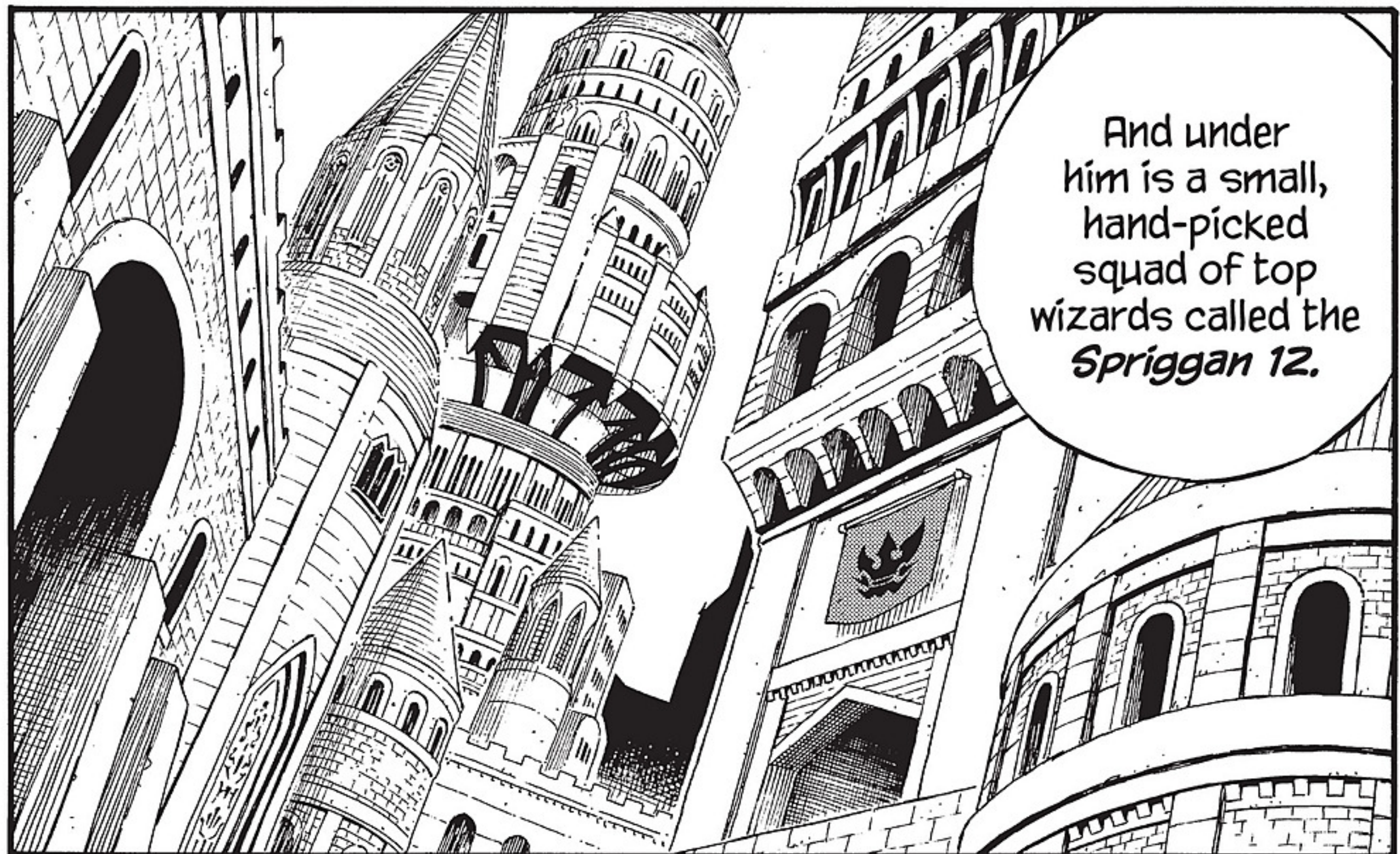
What kind of plan can be in your right arm?!

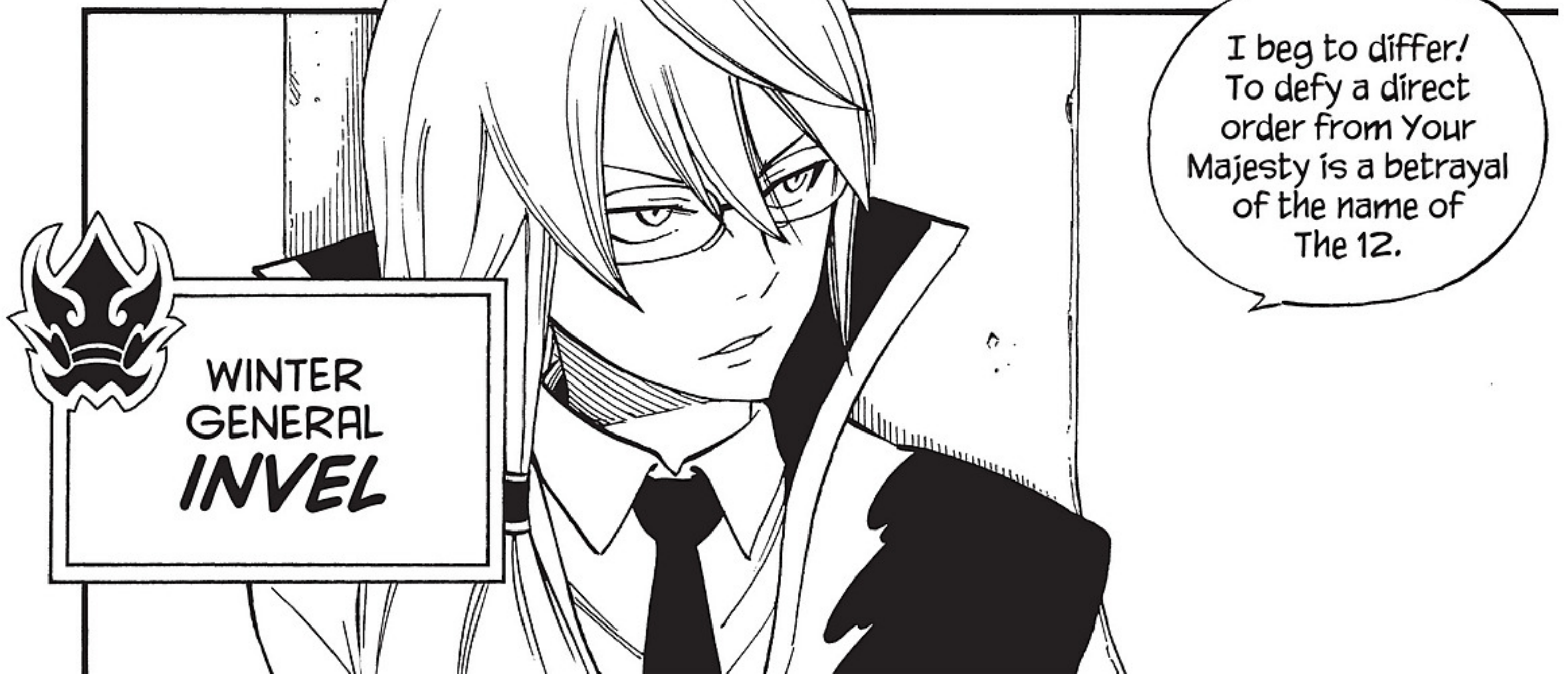
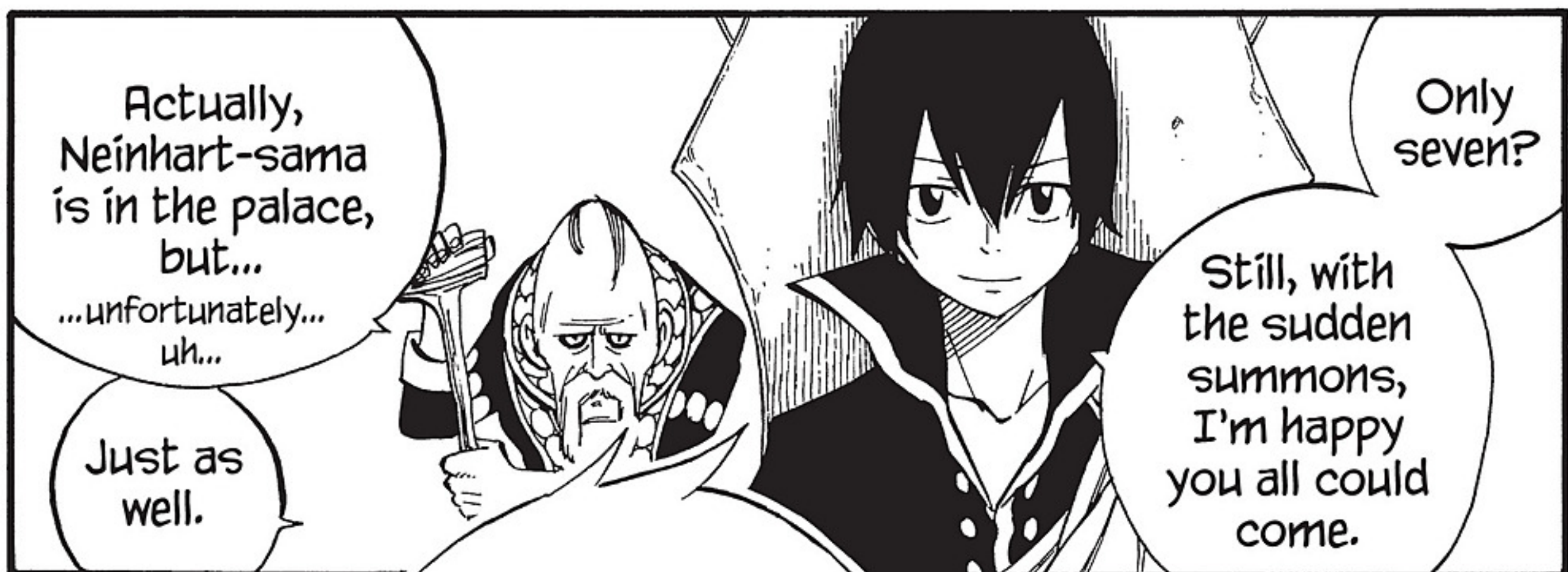
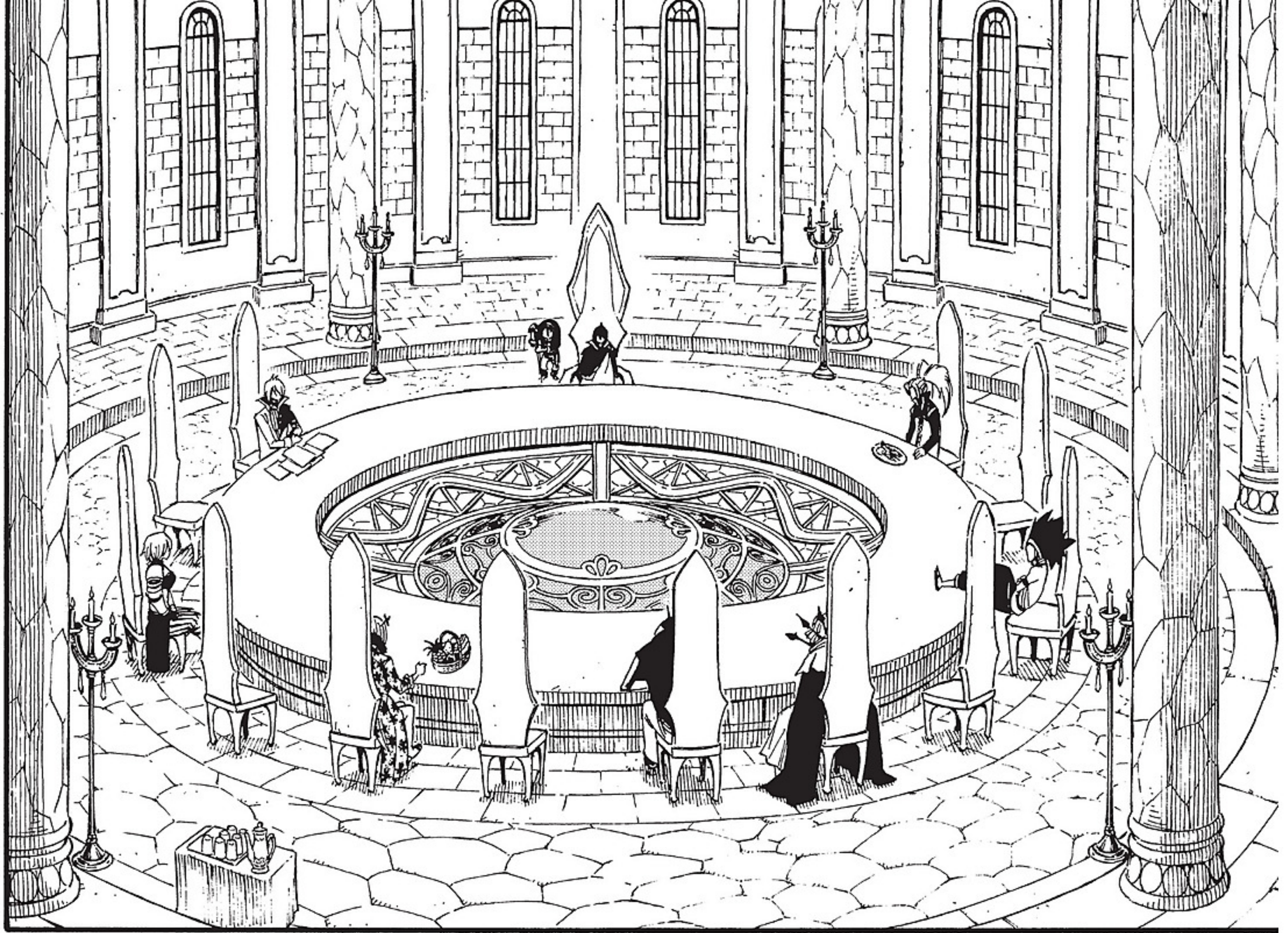
Don't go puttin' on airs!

I want ya to stop biting!



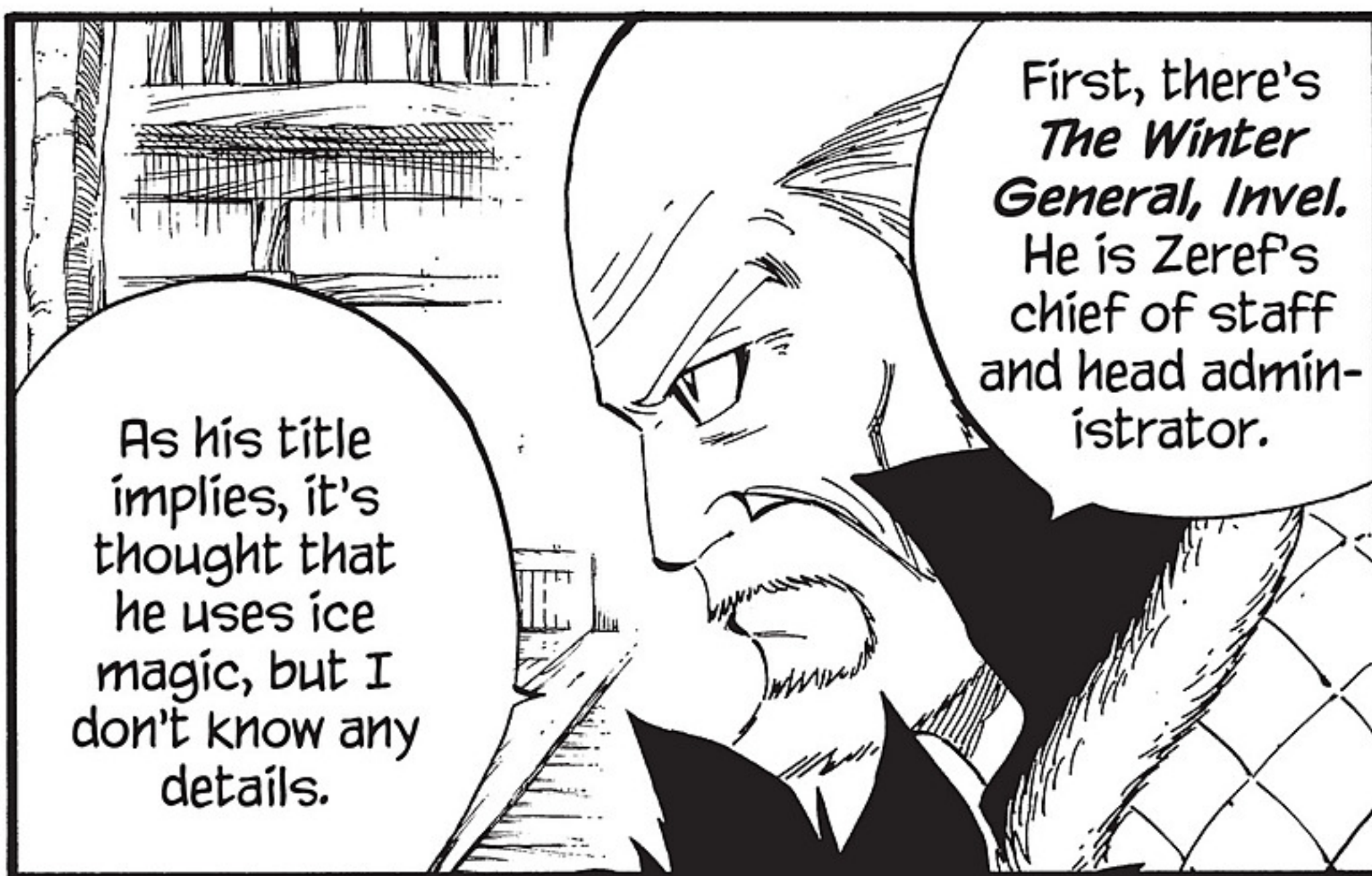






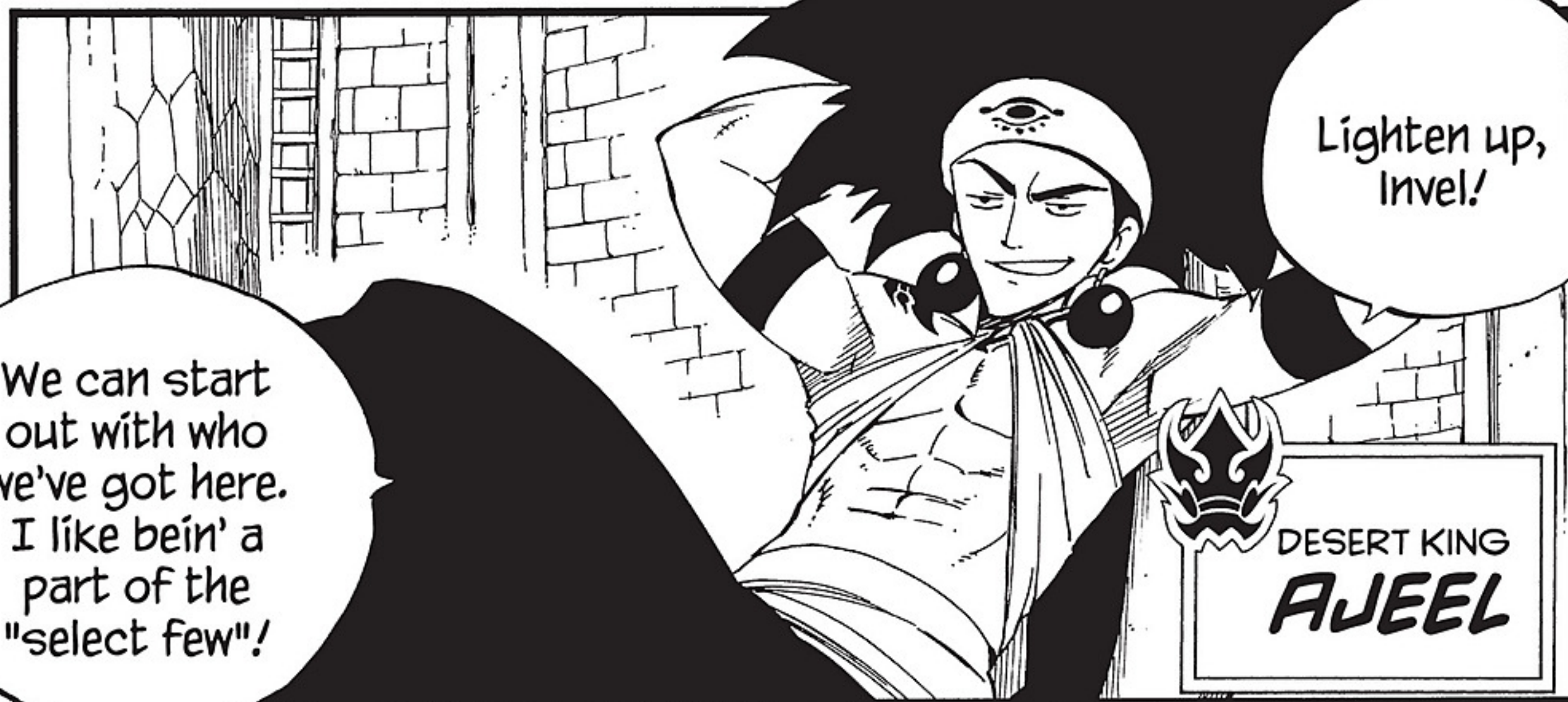


Ice...



First, there's *The Winter General, Invel*. He is Zeref's chief of staff and head administrator.

As his title implies, it's thought that he uses ice magic, but I don't know any details.



Lighten up, Invel!

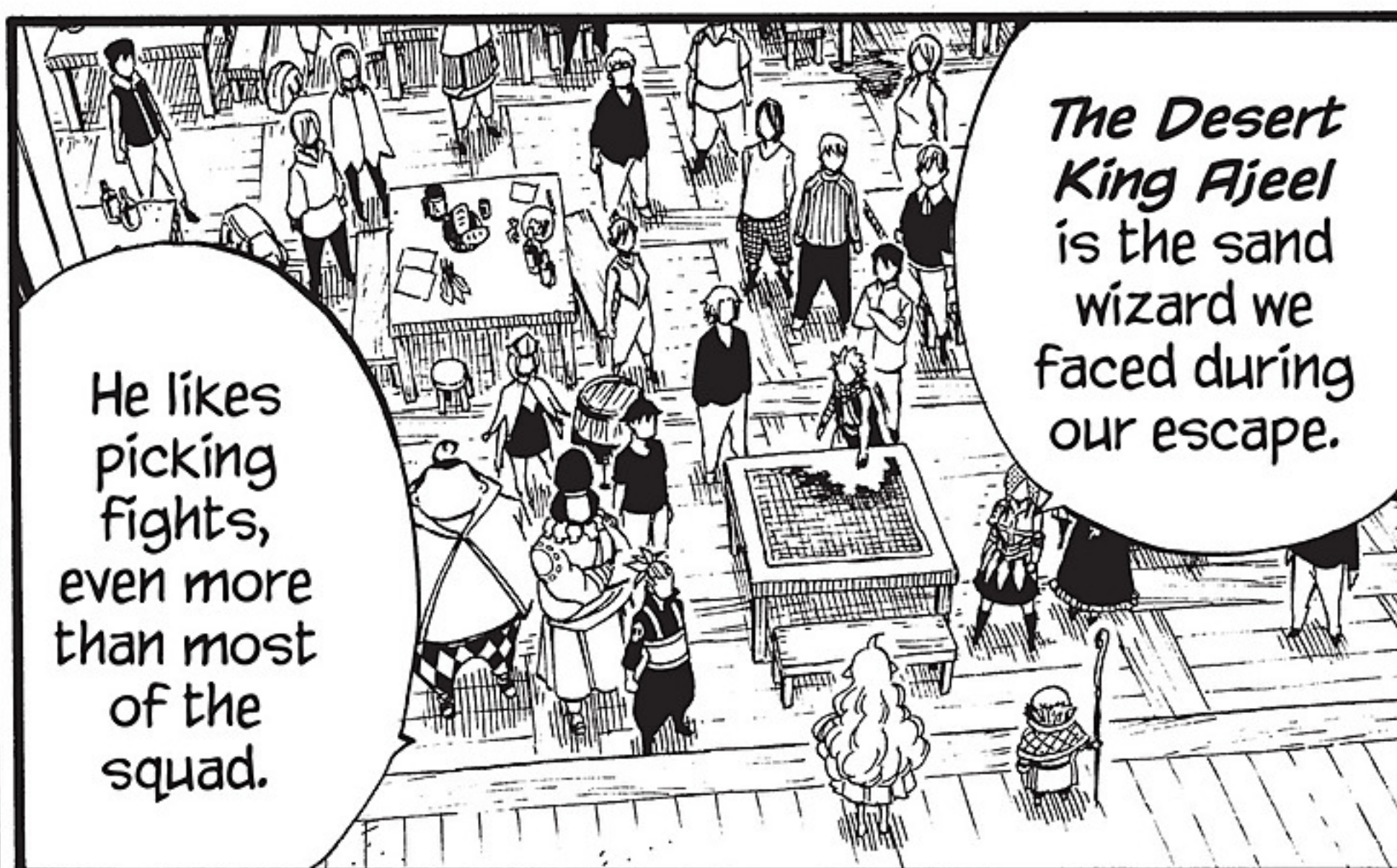
We can start out with who we've got here. I like bein' a part of the "select few"!



DESERT KING
AJEEL

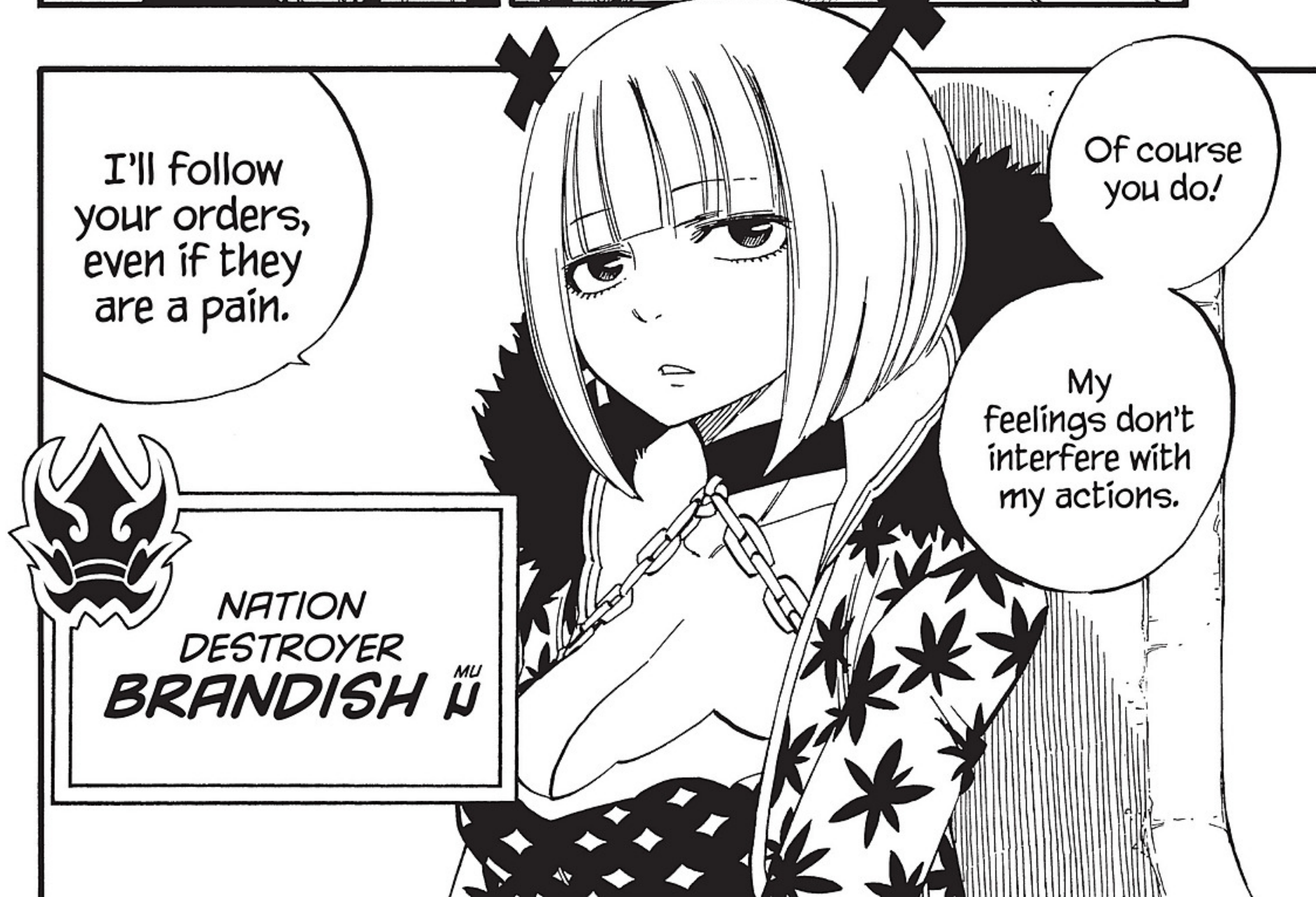
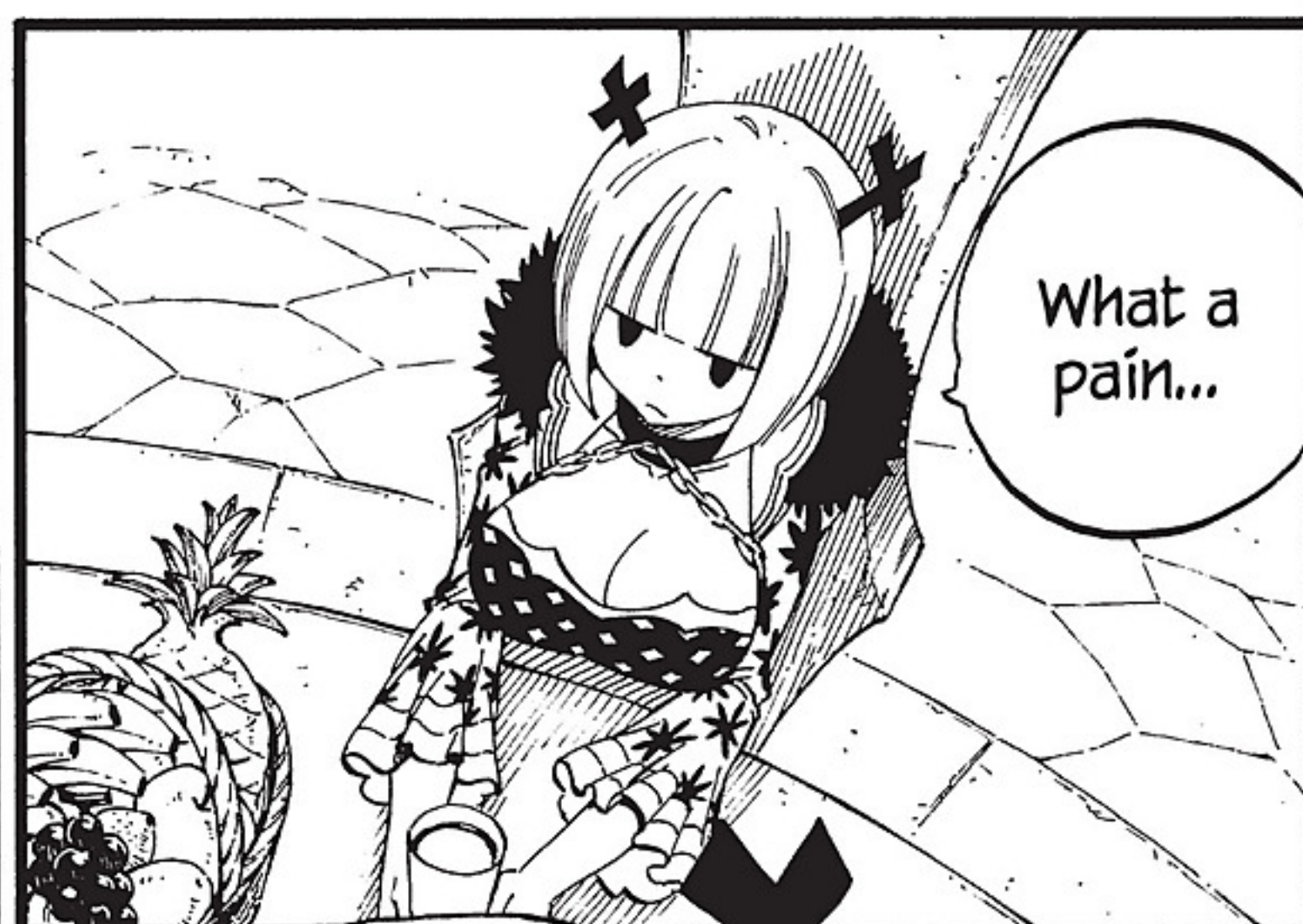
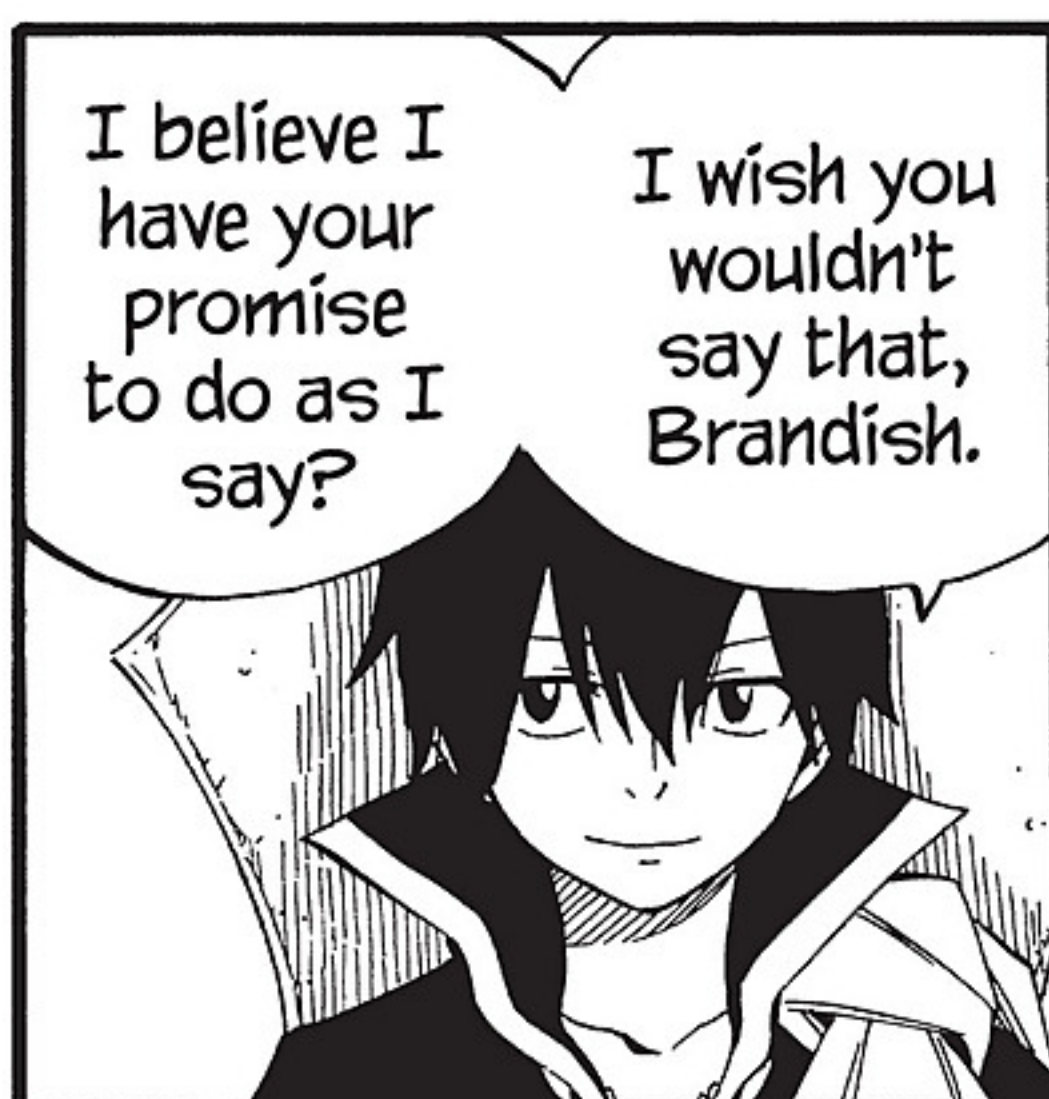
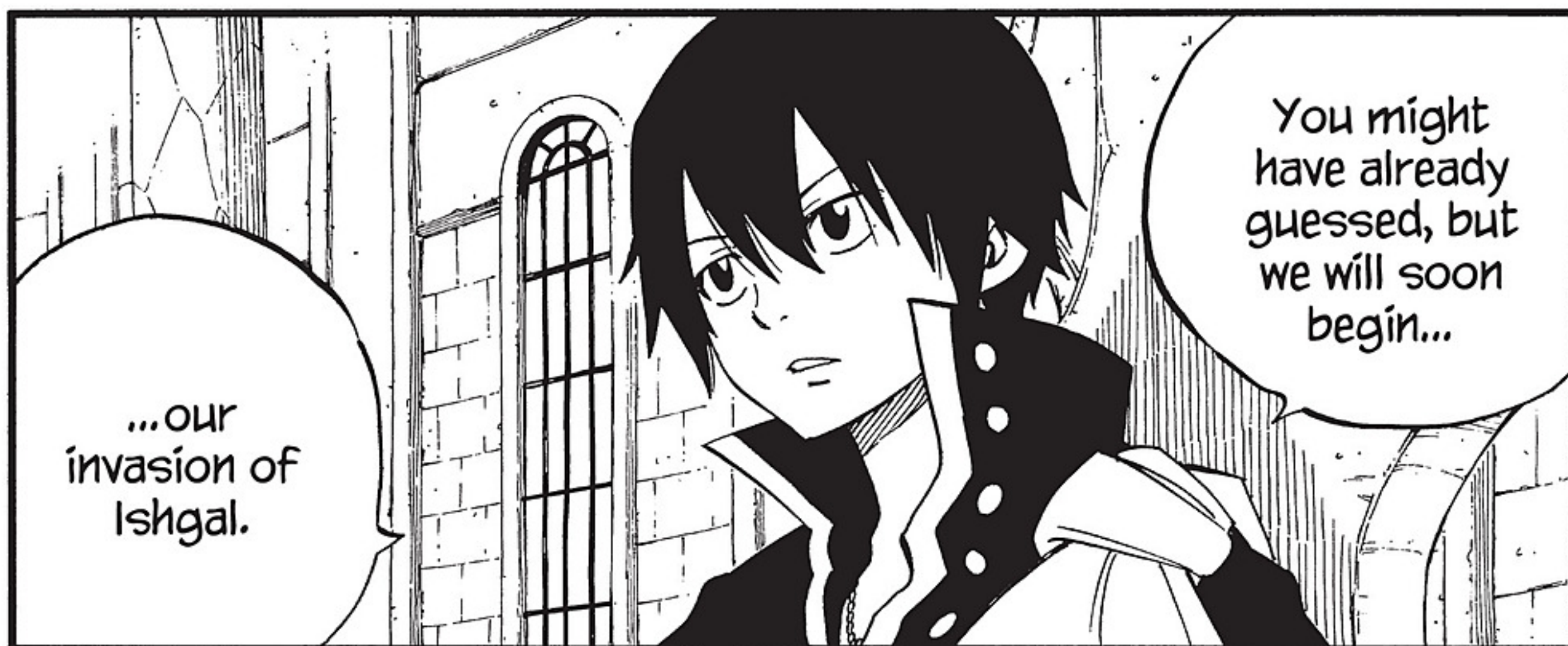


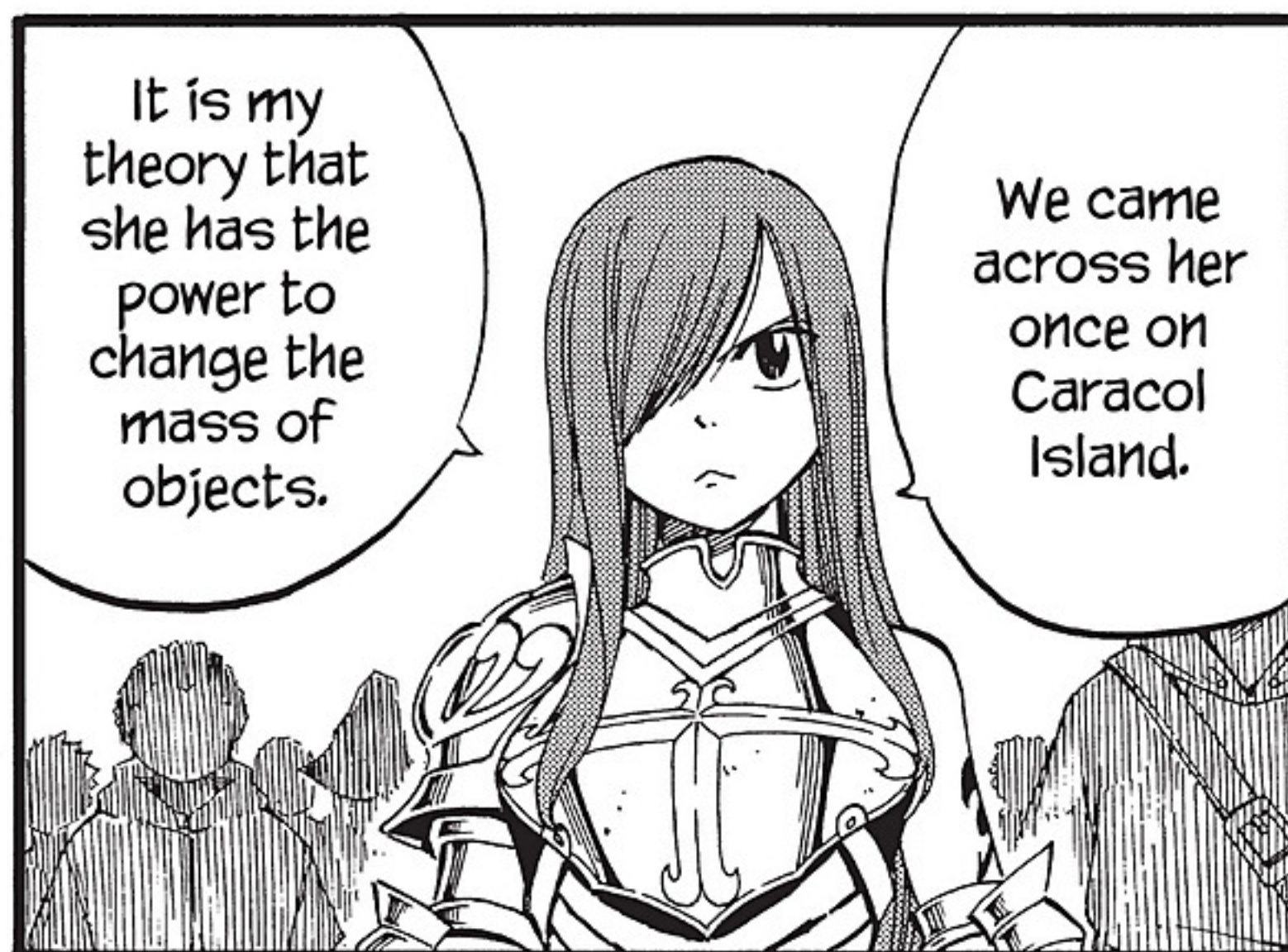
Oh, him...



He likes picking fights, even more than most of the squad.

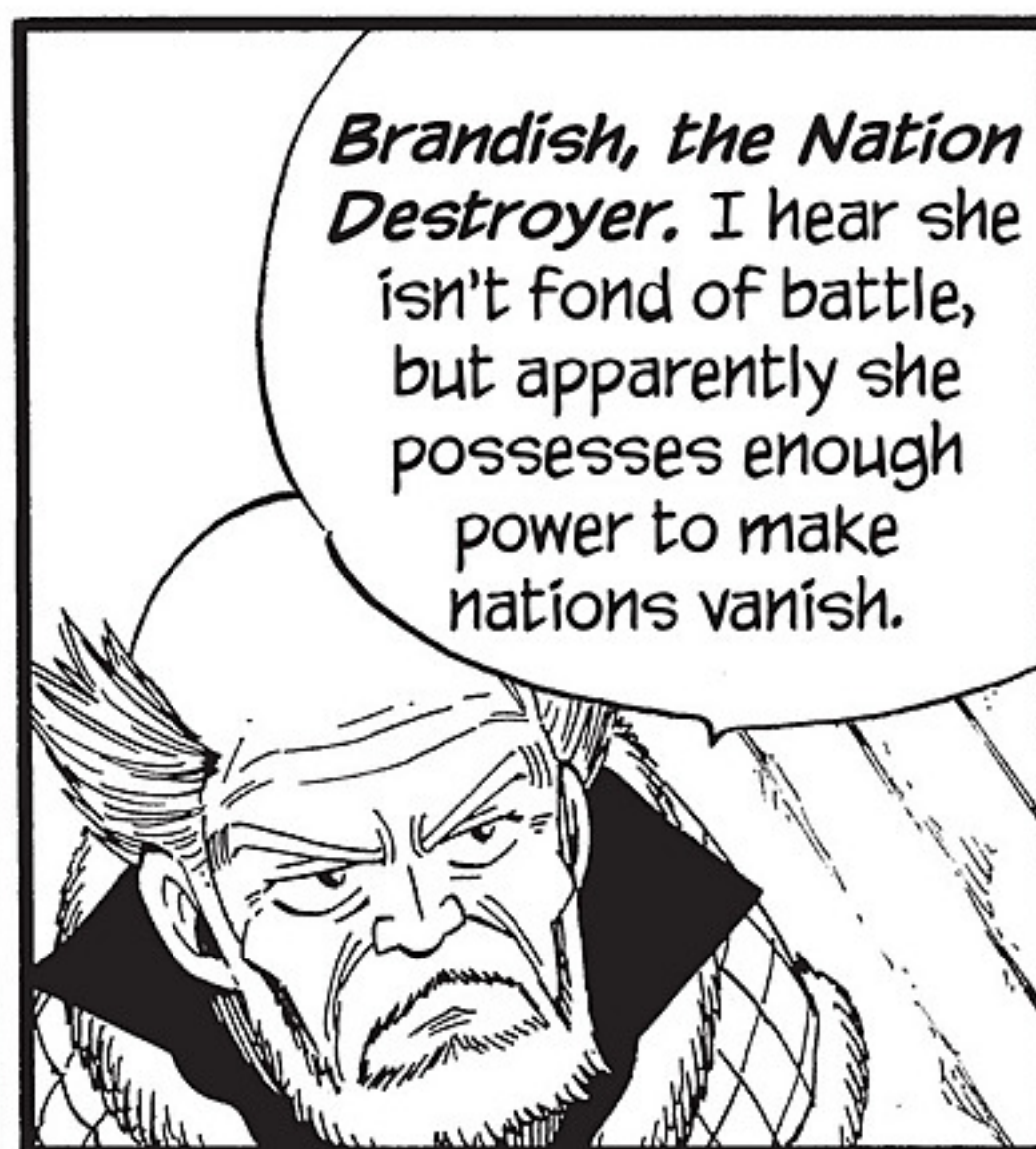
The Desert King Ajeel is the sand wizard we faced during our escape.



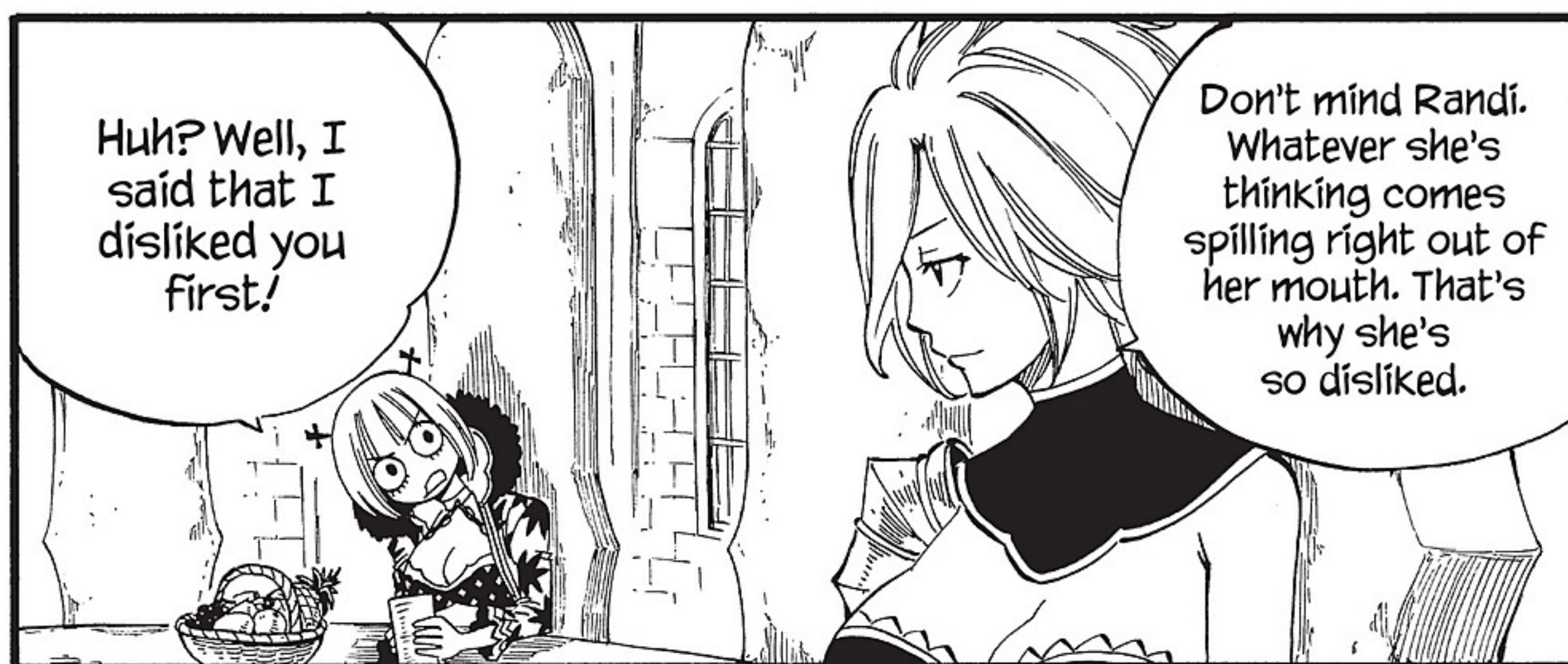


It is my theory that she has the power to change the mass of objects.

We came across her once on Caracol Island.

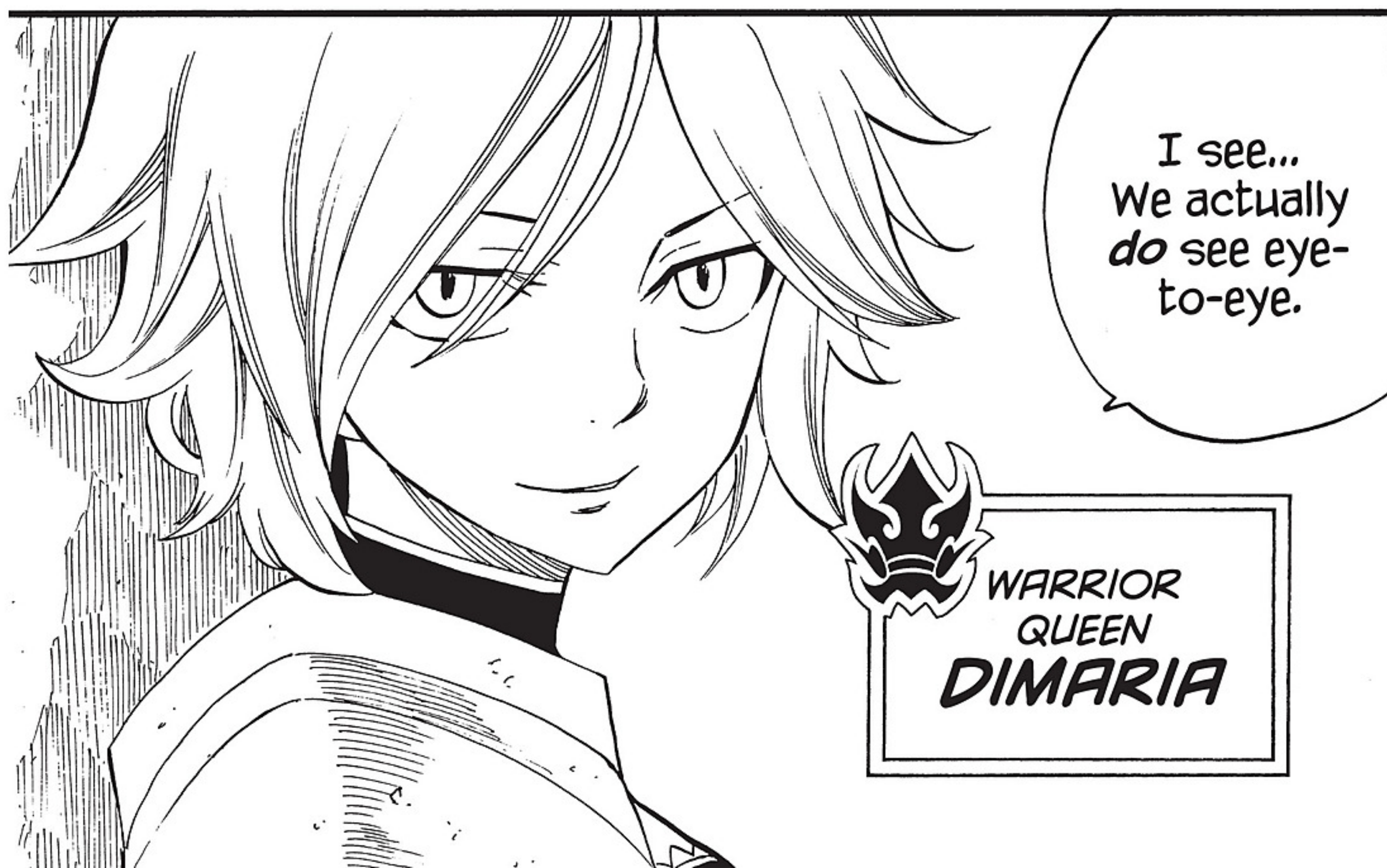


Brandish, the Nation Destroyer. I hear she isn't fond of battle, but apparently she possesses enough power to make nations vanish.



Huh? Well, I said that I disliked you first!

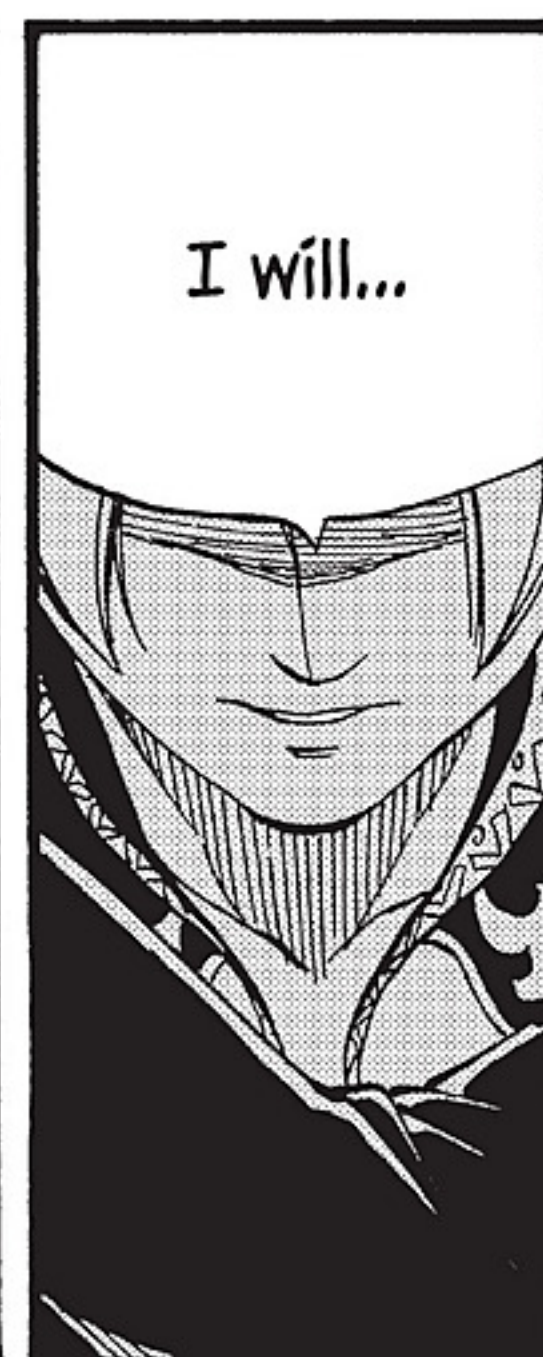
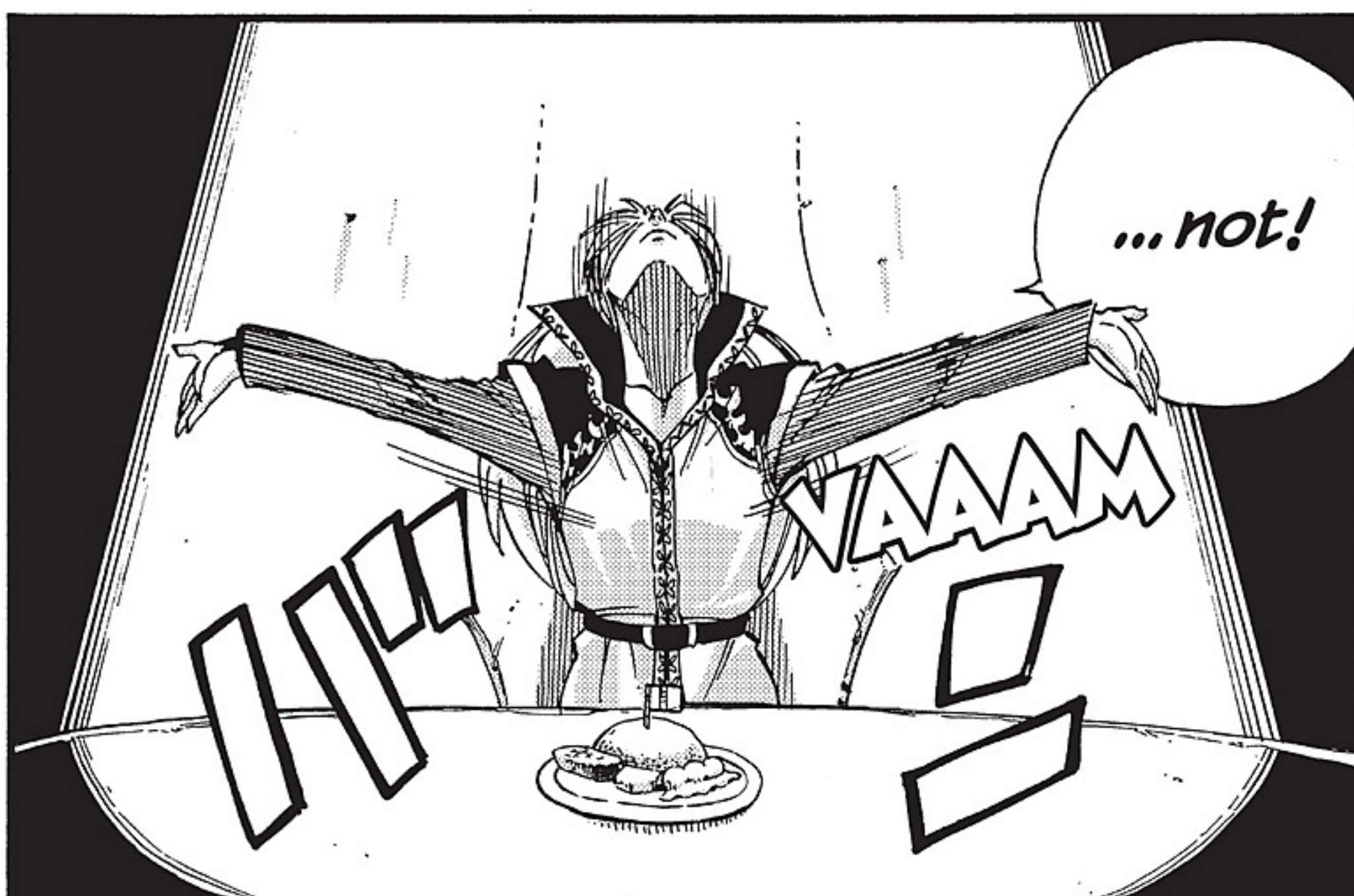
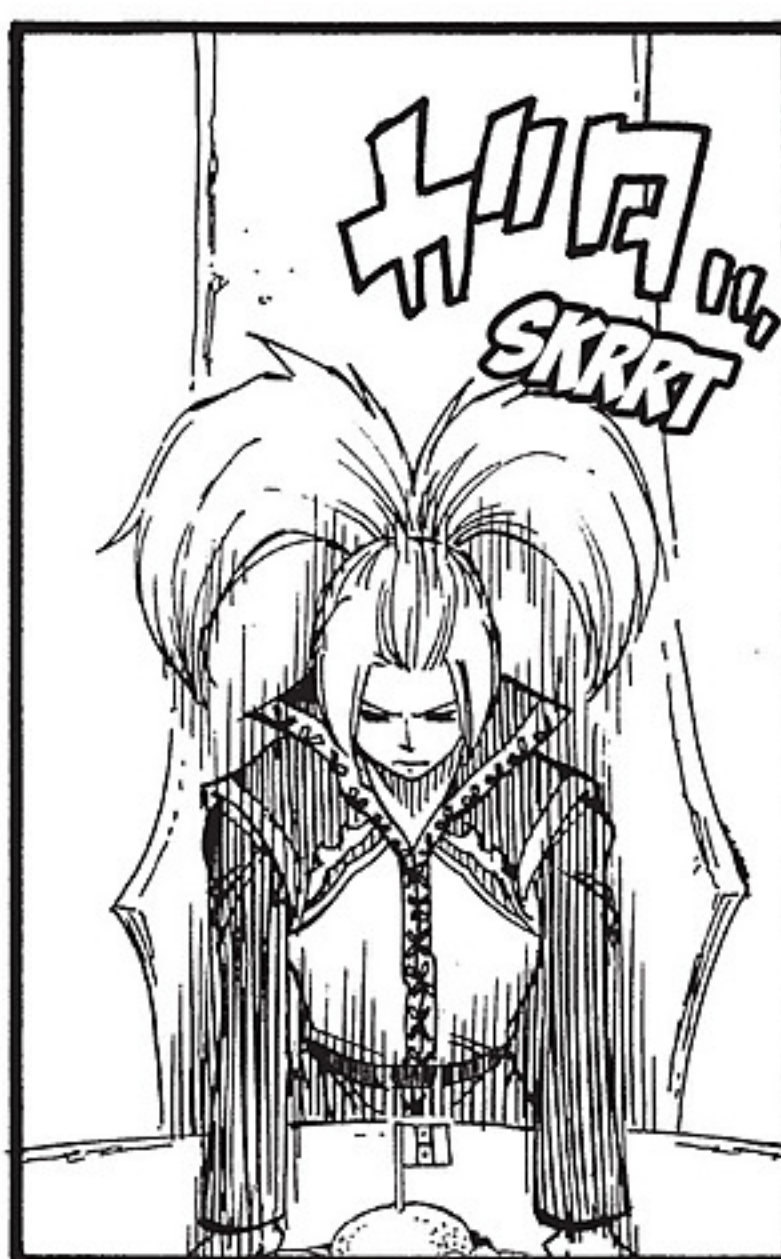
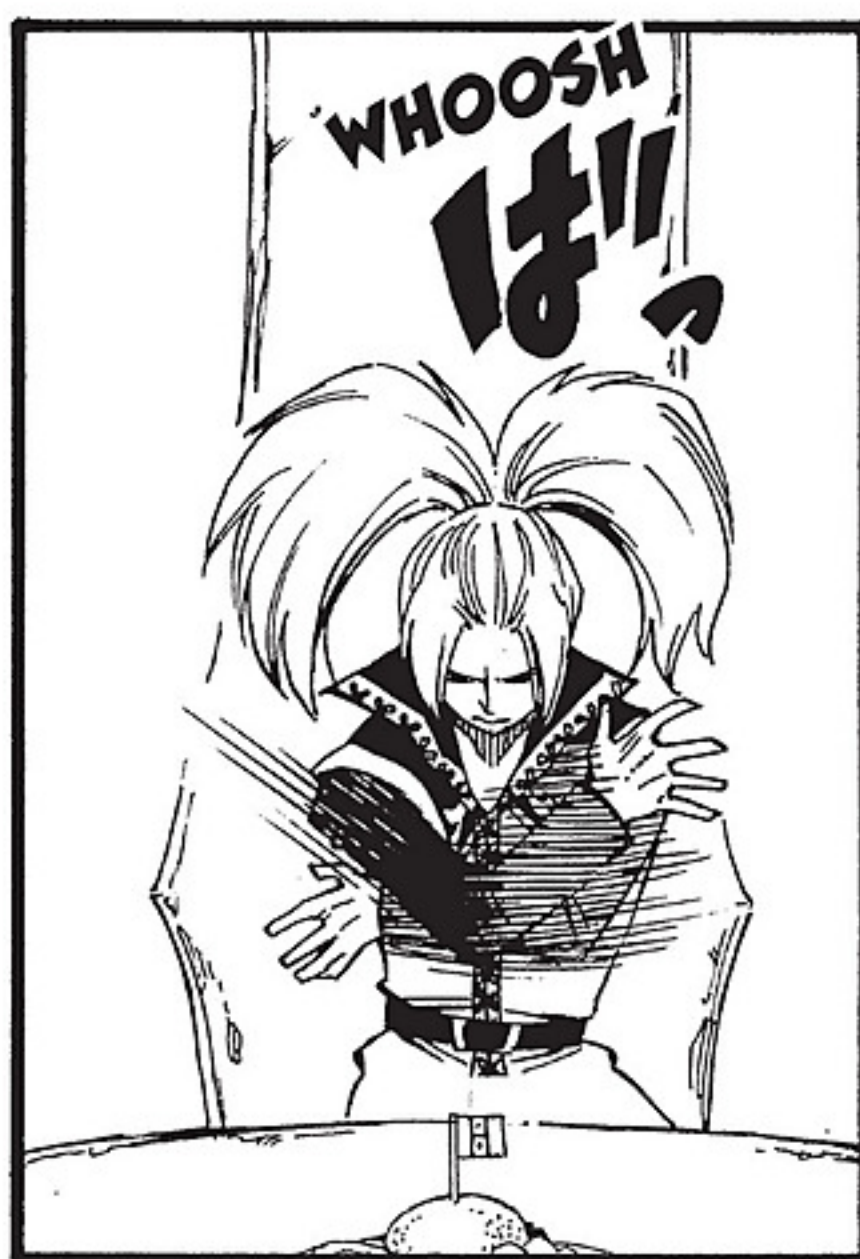
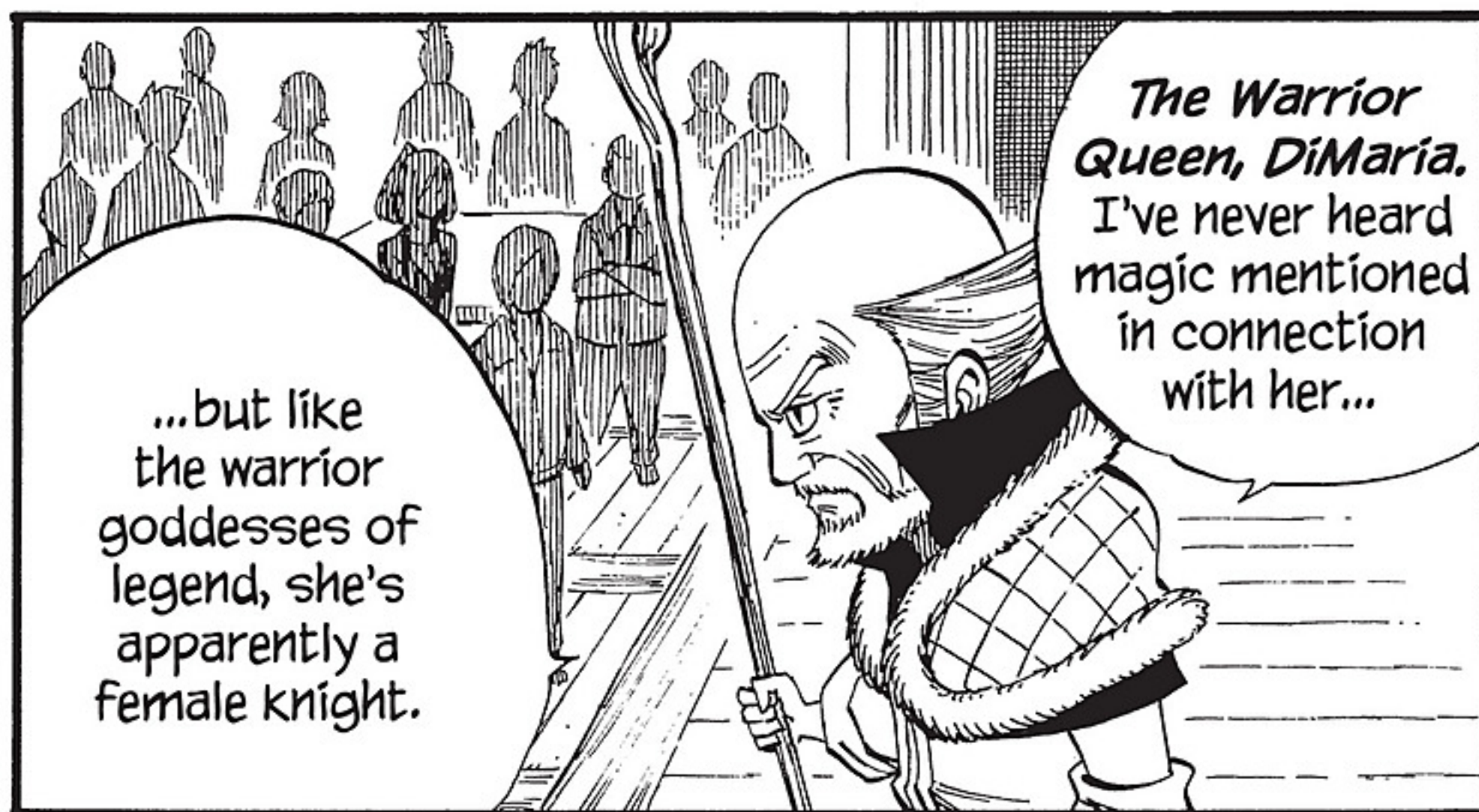
Don't mind Randi. Whatever she's thinking comes spilling right out of her mouth. That's why she's so disliked.

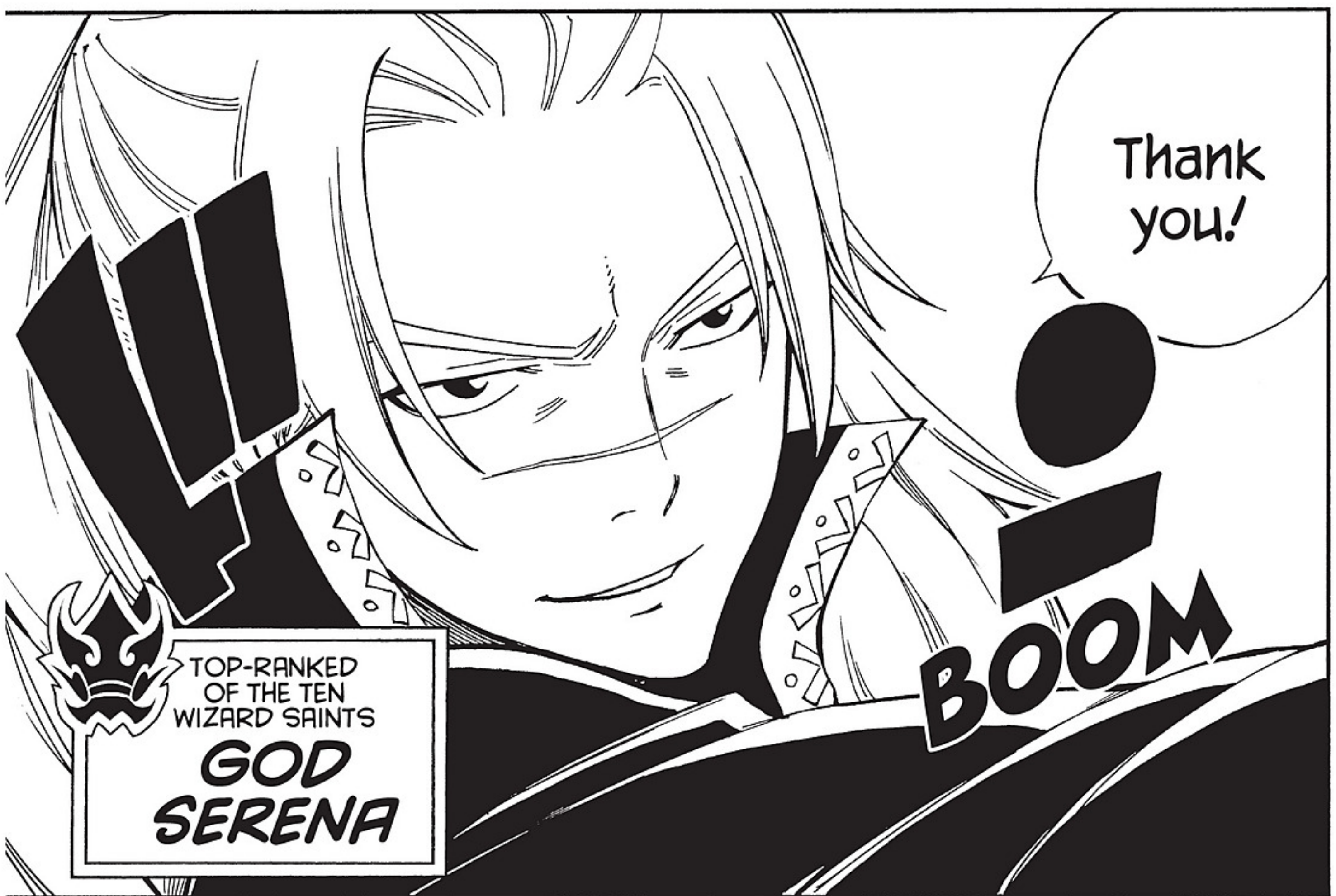
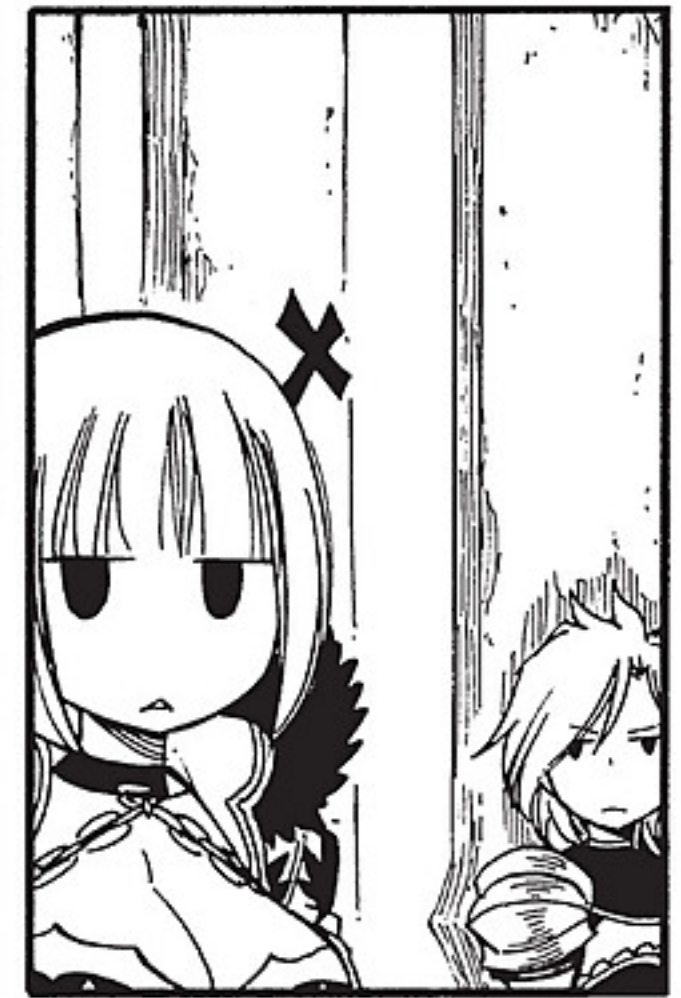
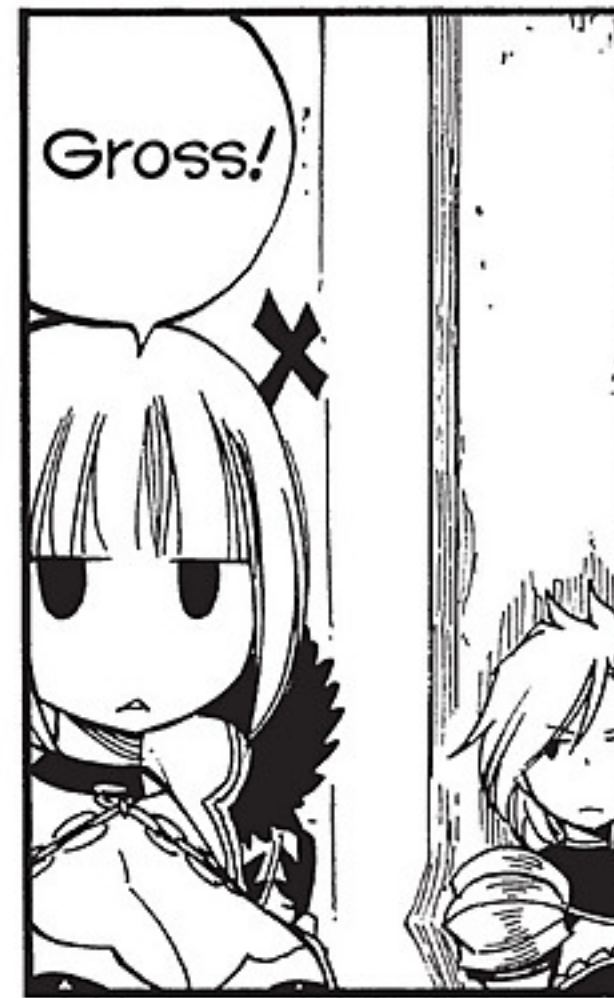
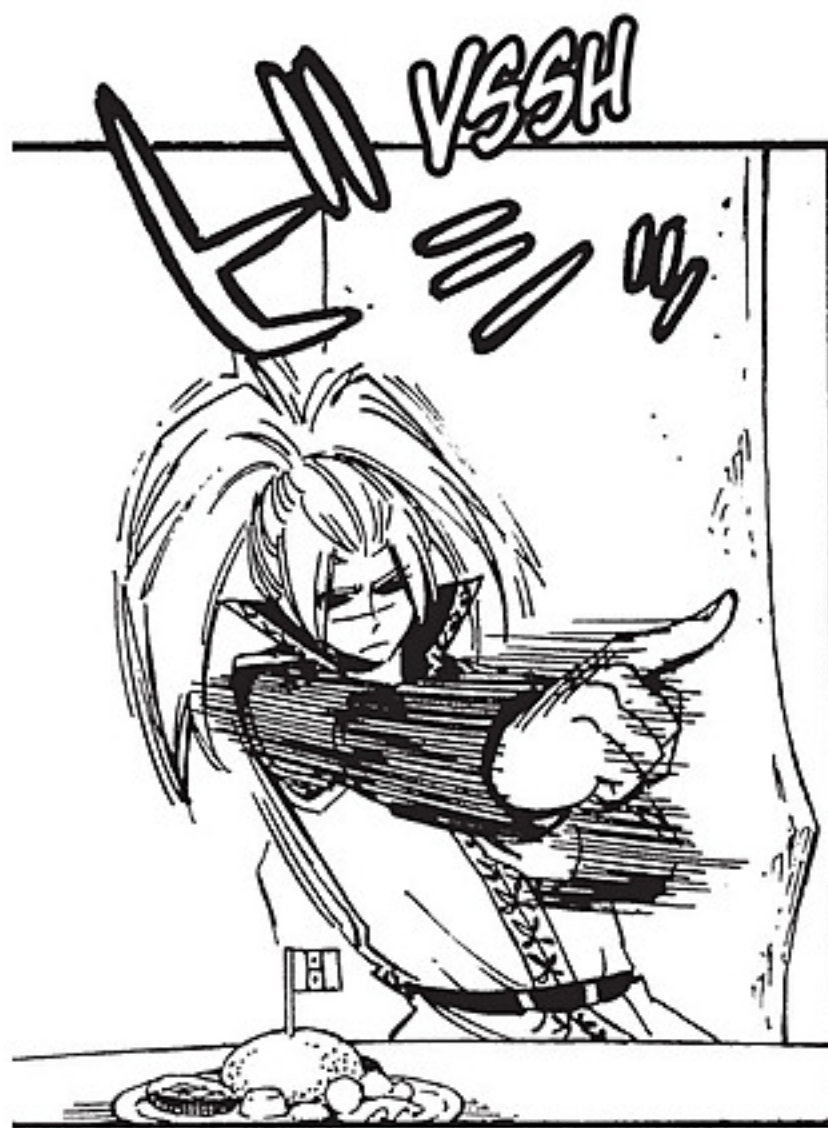


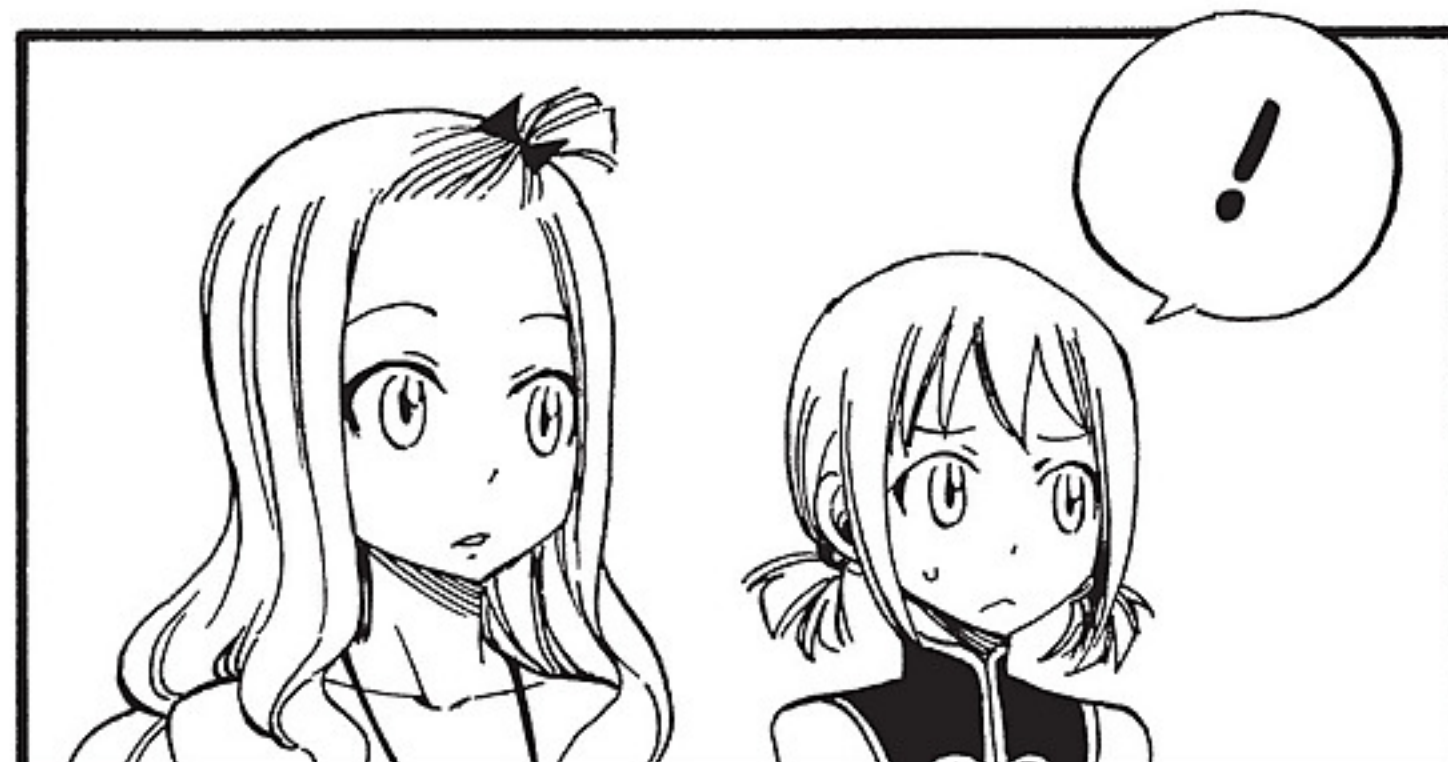
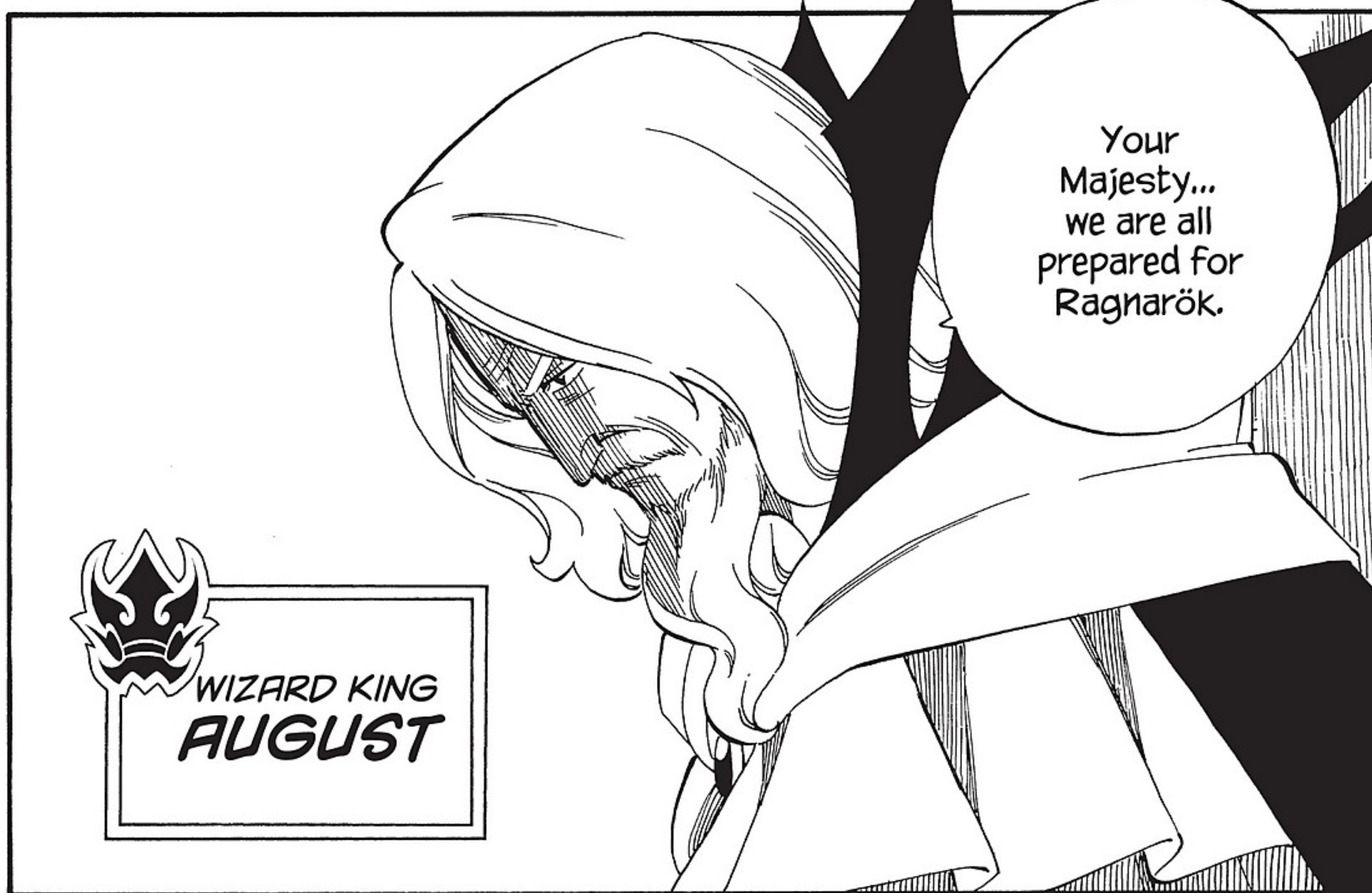
I see... We actually *do* see eye-to-eye.

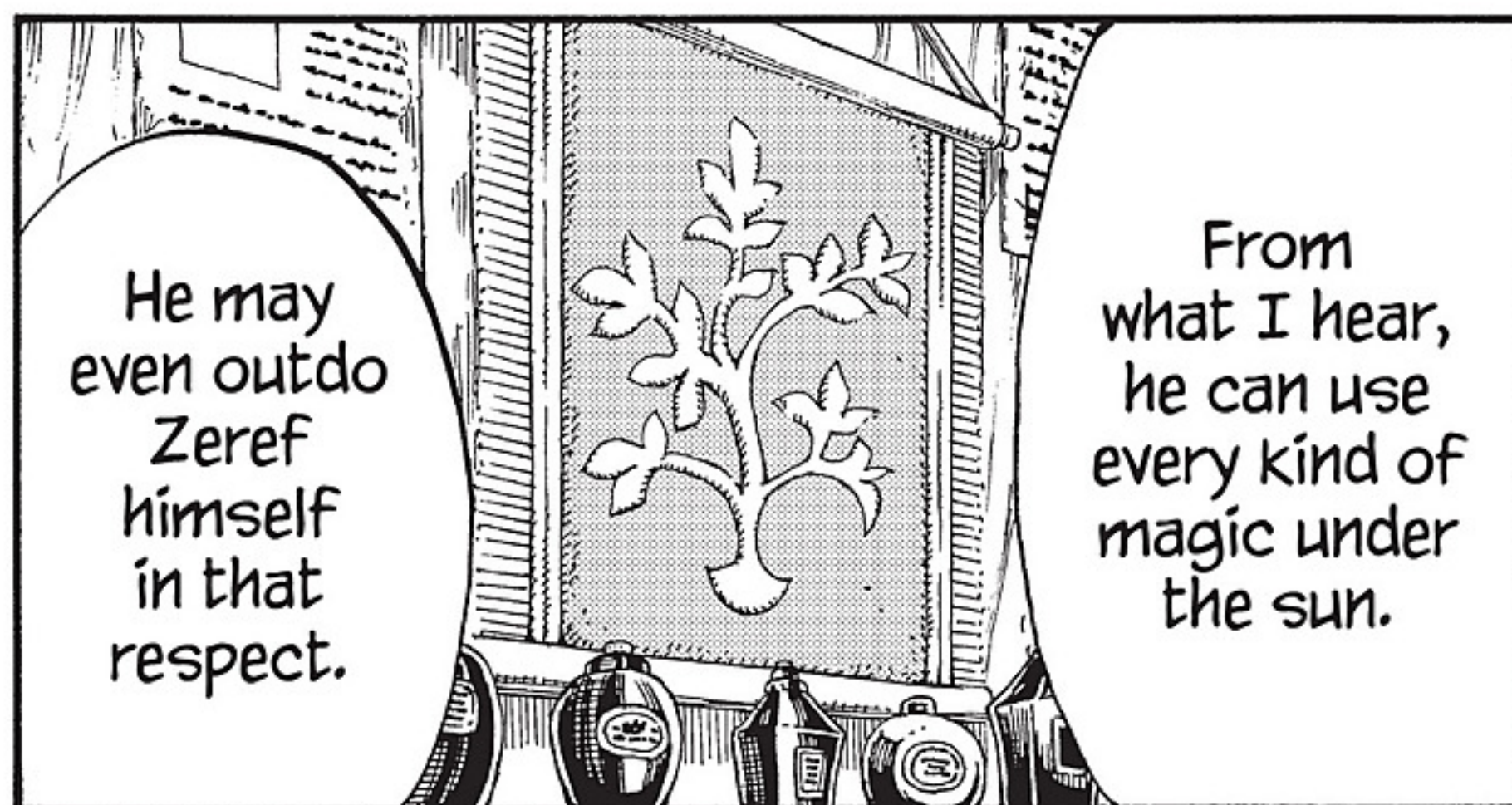
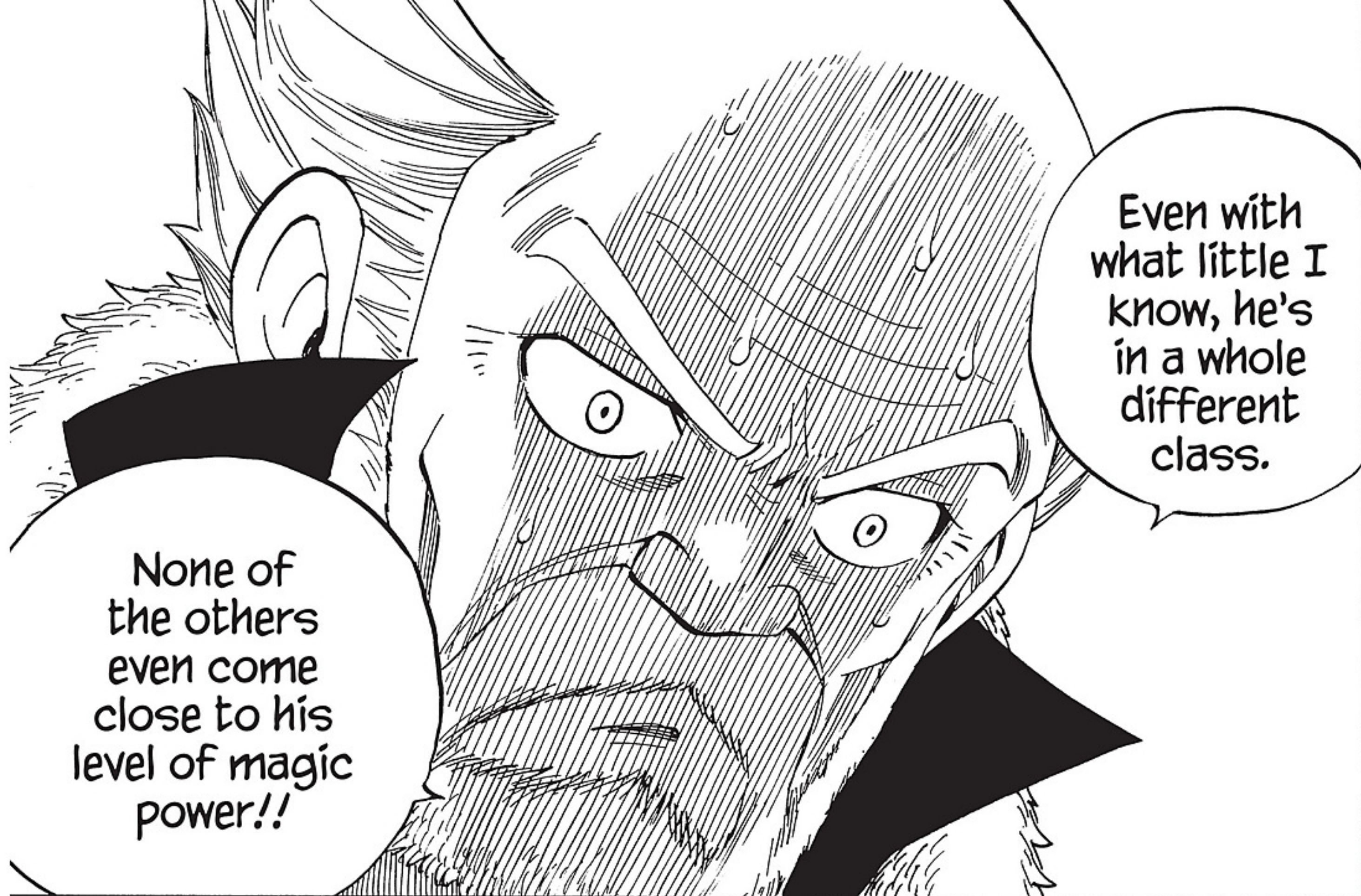


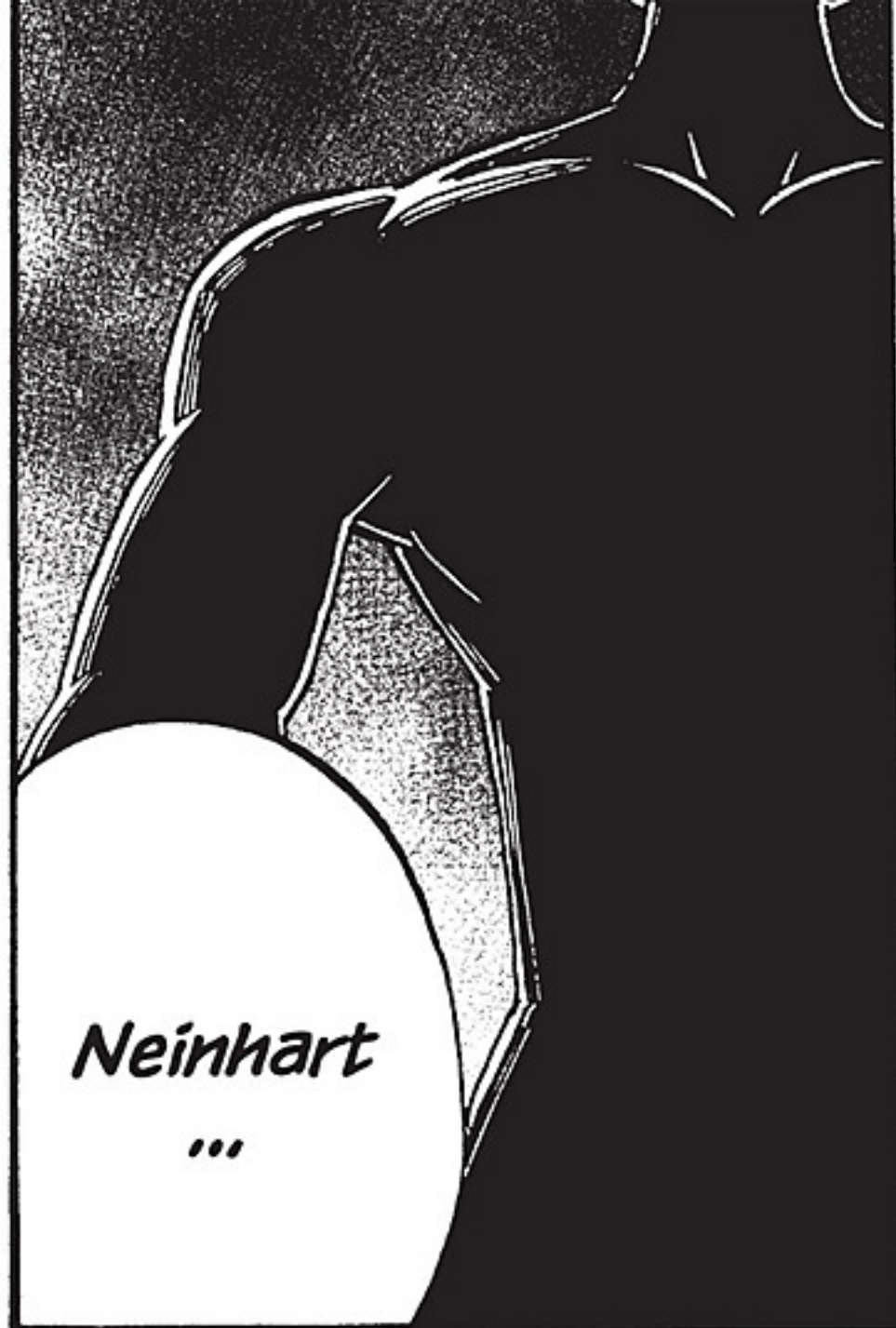
WARRIOR
QUEEN
DIMARIA











Neinhart
...



Bradman
...



Those six
are the only ones
I know anything
about... And of the
rest, I only know
the names of
three.

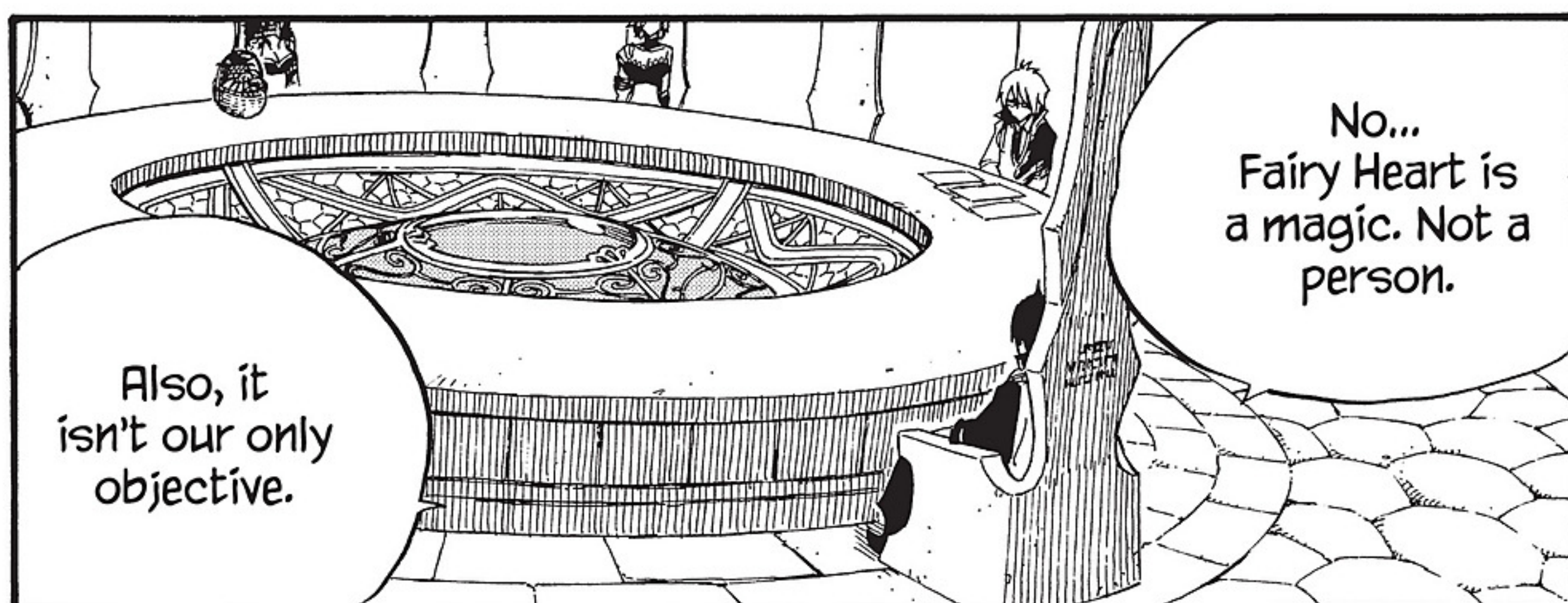


That's
a high
crime...

And
Wall.

In other
words, we're
to retrieve the
body of your
former lover.

JUDGE
WALL EEHTO

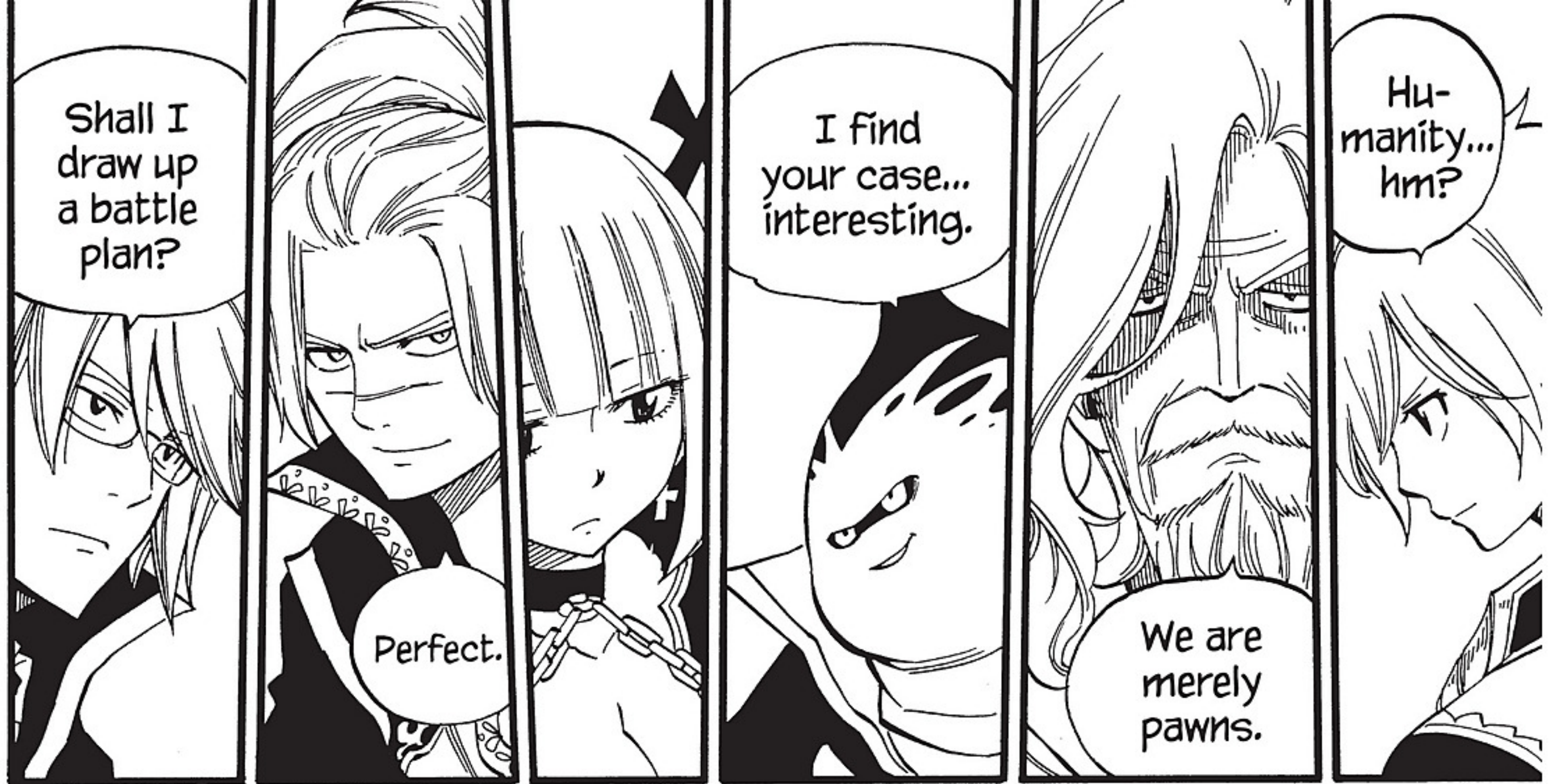


Also, it
isn't our only
objective.

No...
Fairy Heart is
a magic. Not a
person.

**Our other
objective
is the
annihilation
of Ishgal.**

**Just this
once,
humanity
must be
wiped
out.**





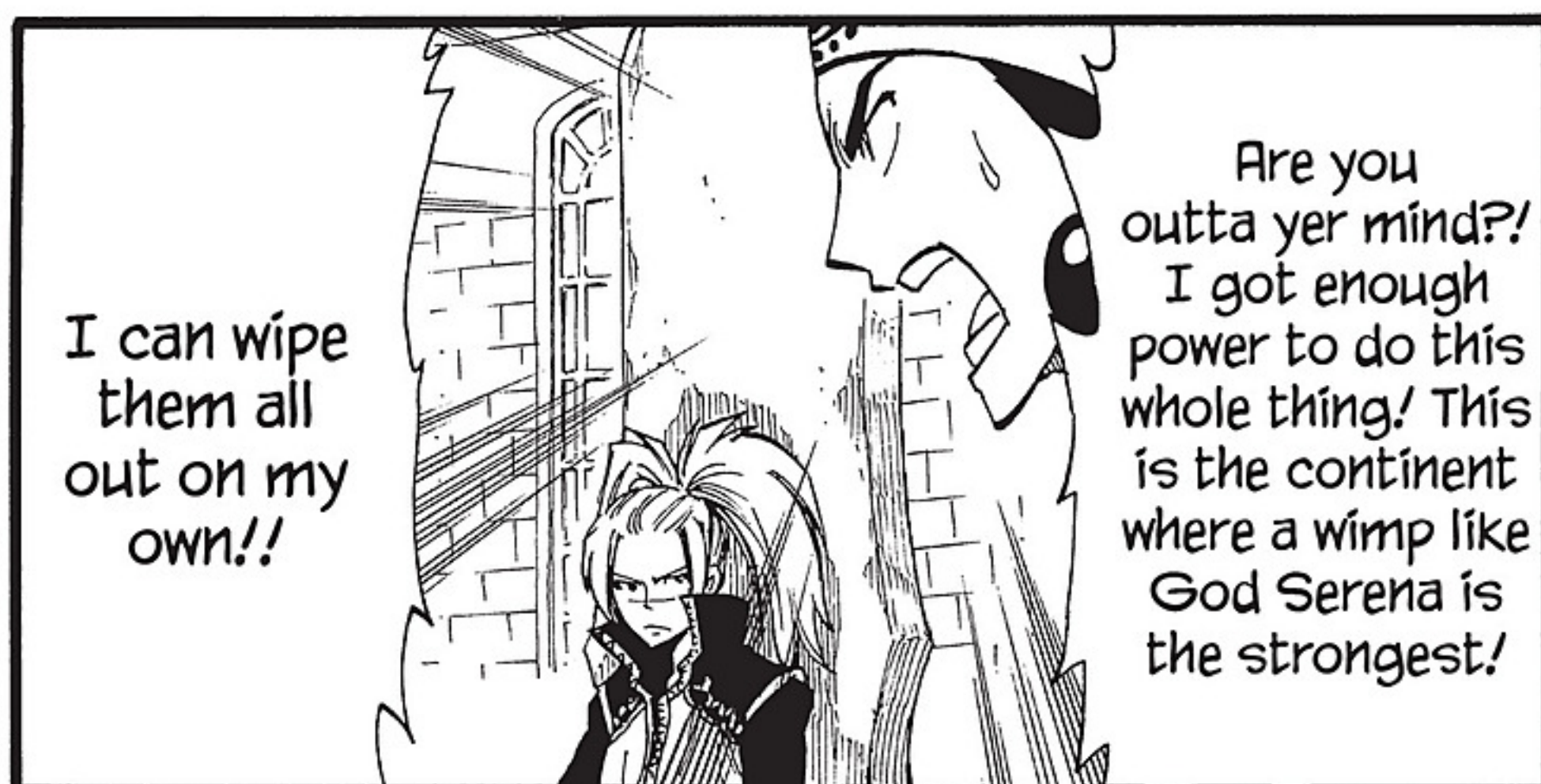
This is
an all-out
attack.



Zeref will
strike with
everything
he has.



If so, that
would be fine...



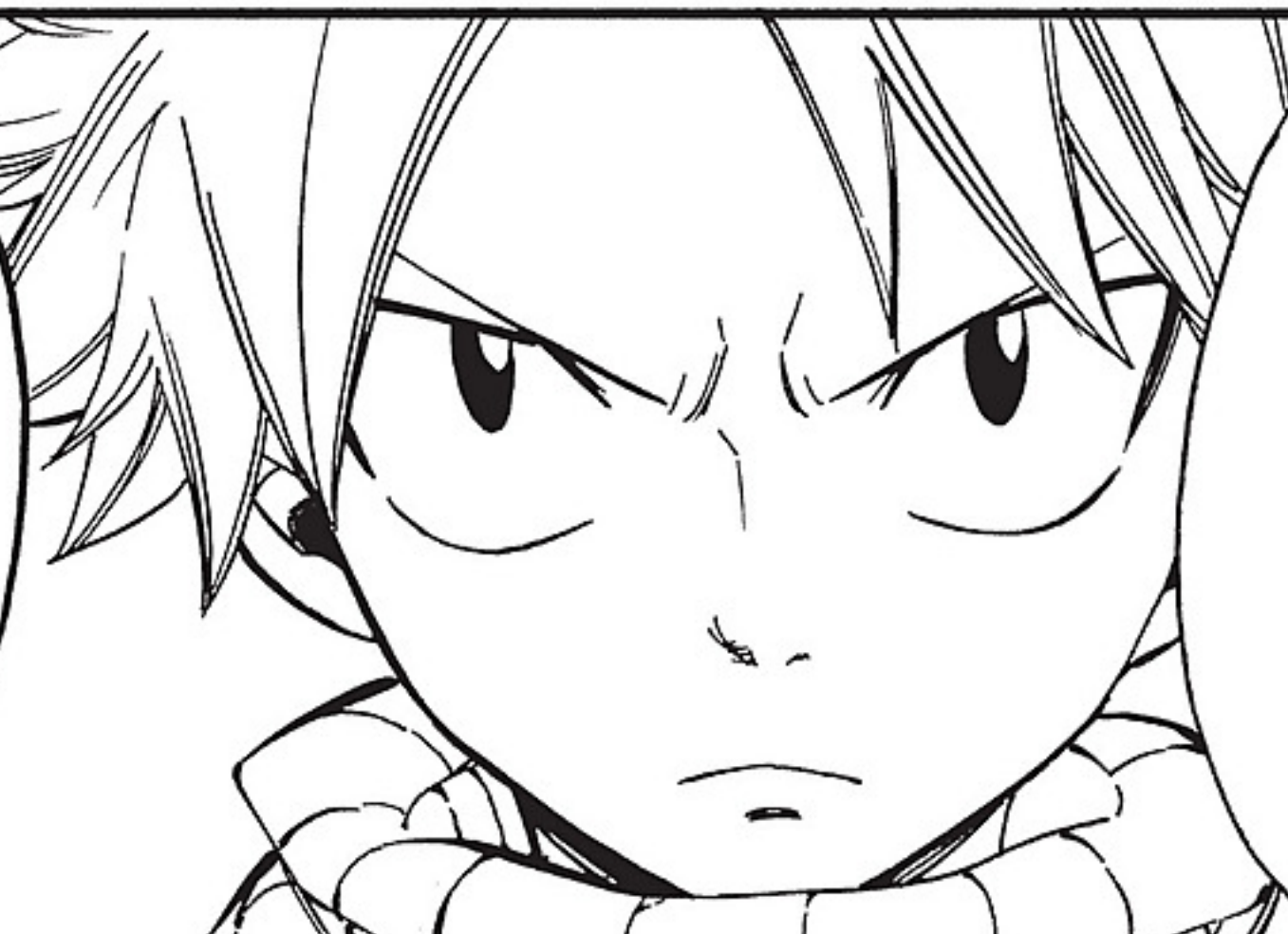
I can wipe
them all
out on my
own!!

Are you
outta yer mind?!
I got enough
power to do this
whole thing! This
is the continent
where a wimp like
God Serena is
the strongest!



I have my reasons.

However, we *will* be combining all our forces for the attack.



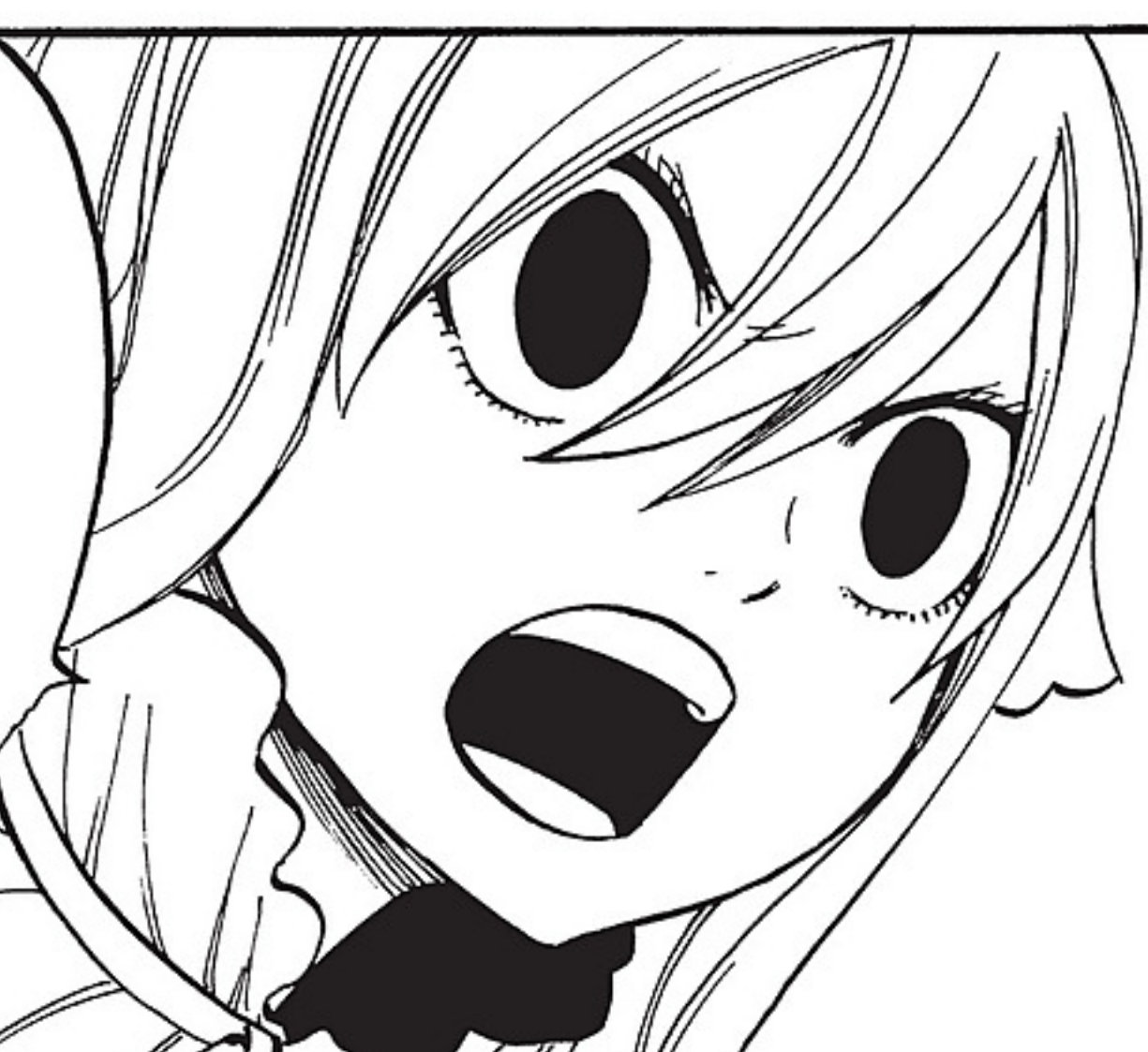
This enemy is orders of magnitude stronger than any we've faced before.

According to all the information I can gather, we are at no small disadvantage.



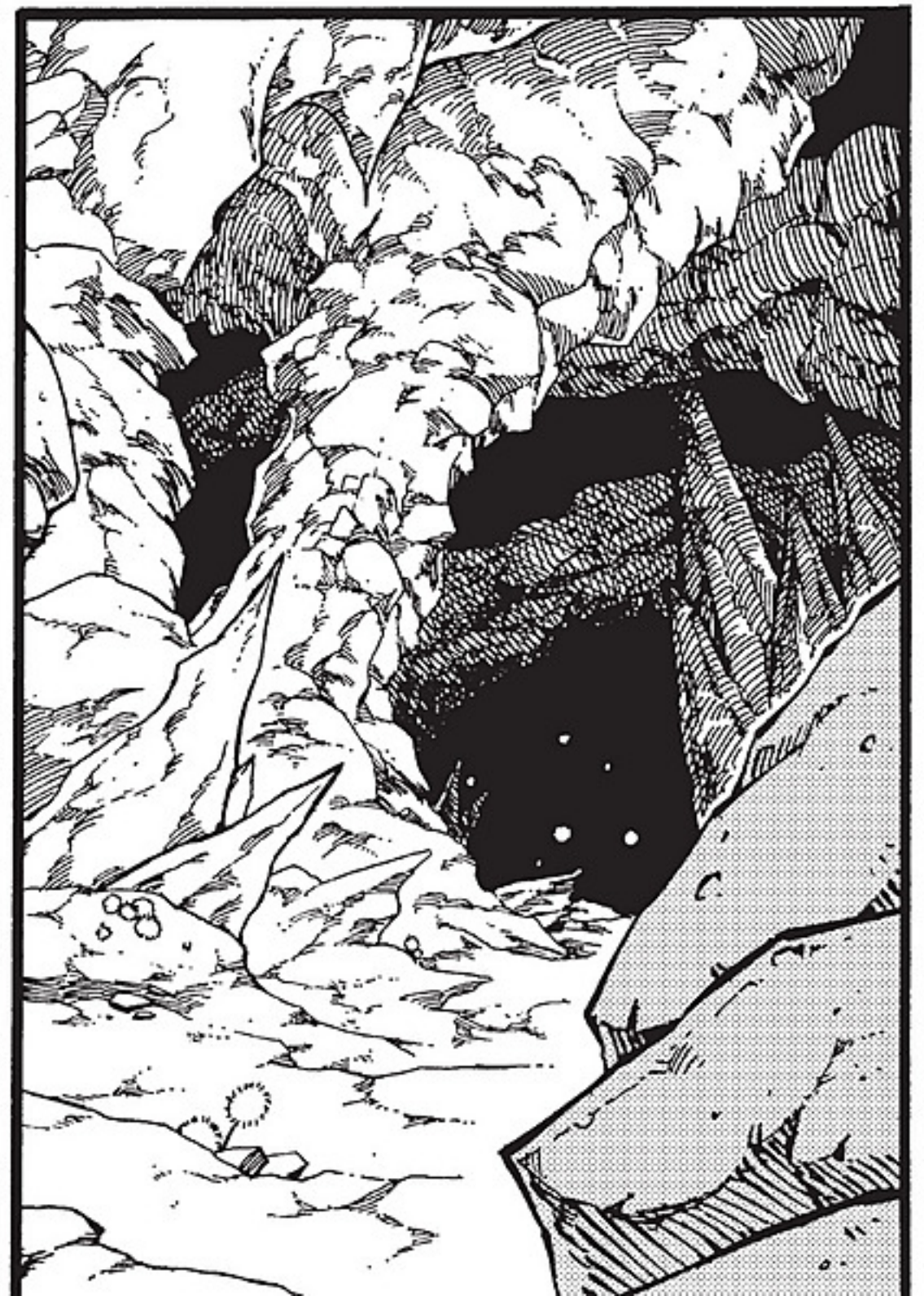
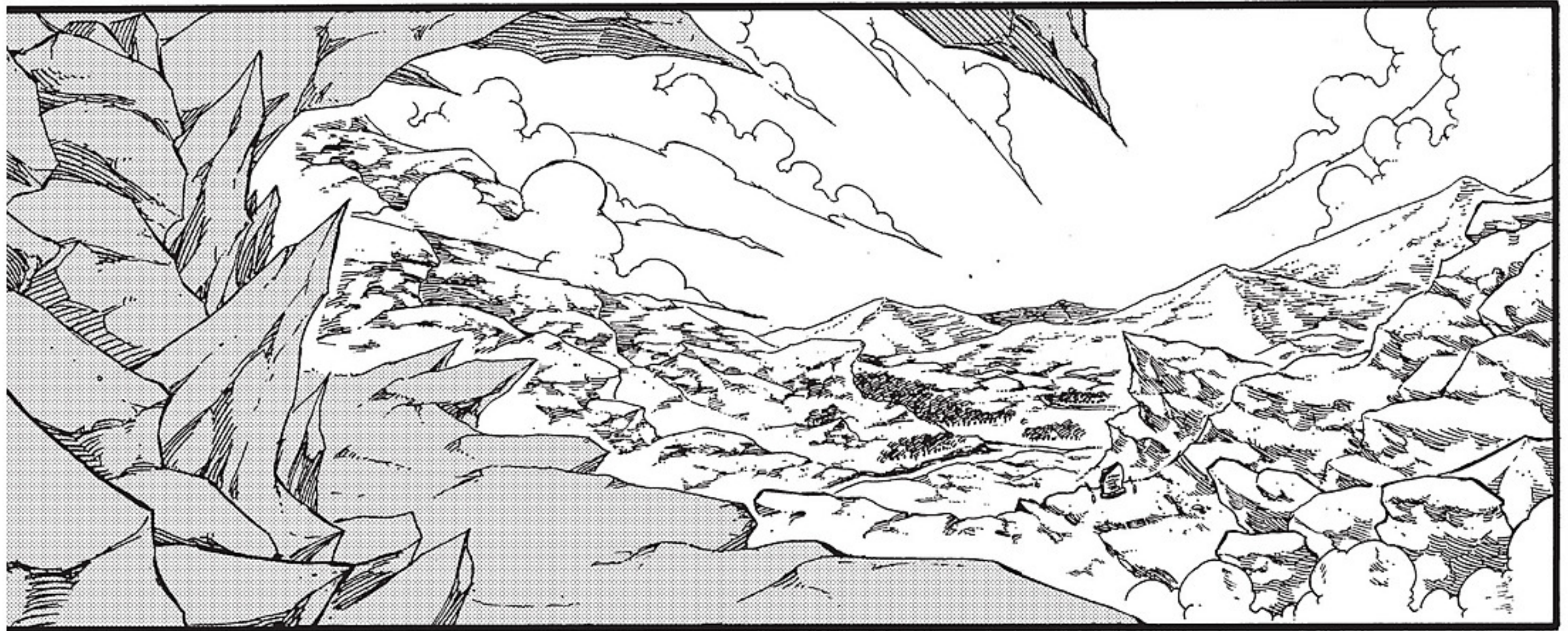
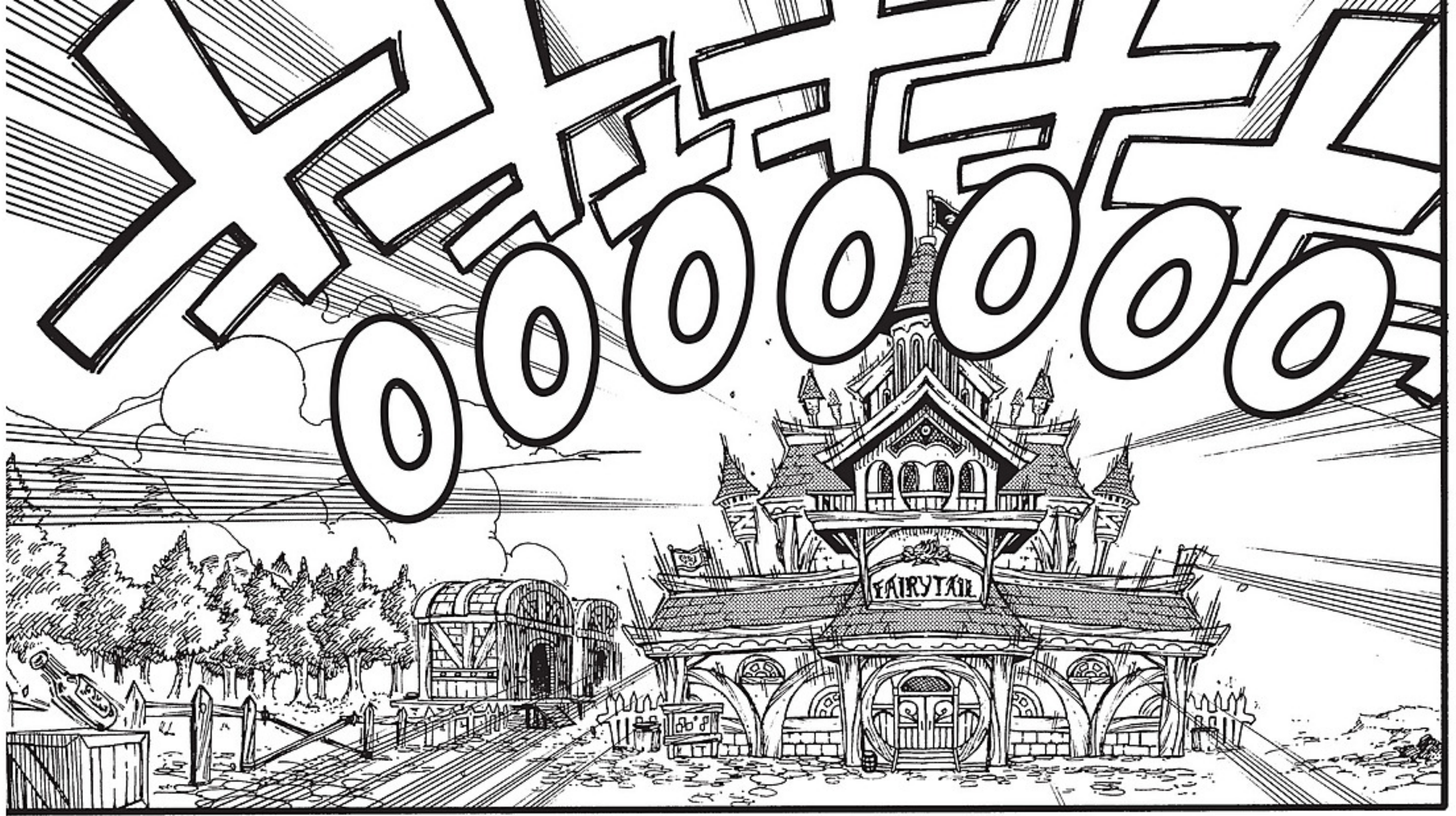
So prepare all troops to move out!

The Dragon King Festival will soon begin.



Let's show them how strong our guild is!!!!

Therefore, we have to fight our way through this with bravery and the strength of our bonds!





**I will
devour
every-
thing.**

**The
Dragon
King
Festival
begins.**



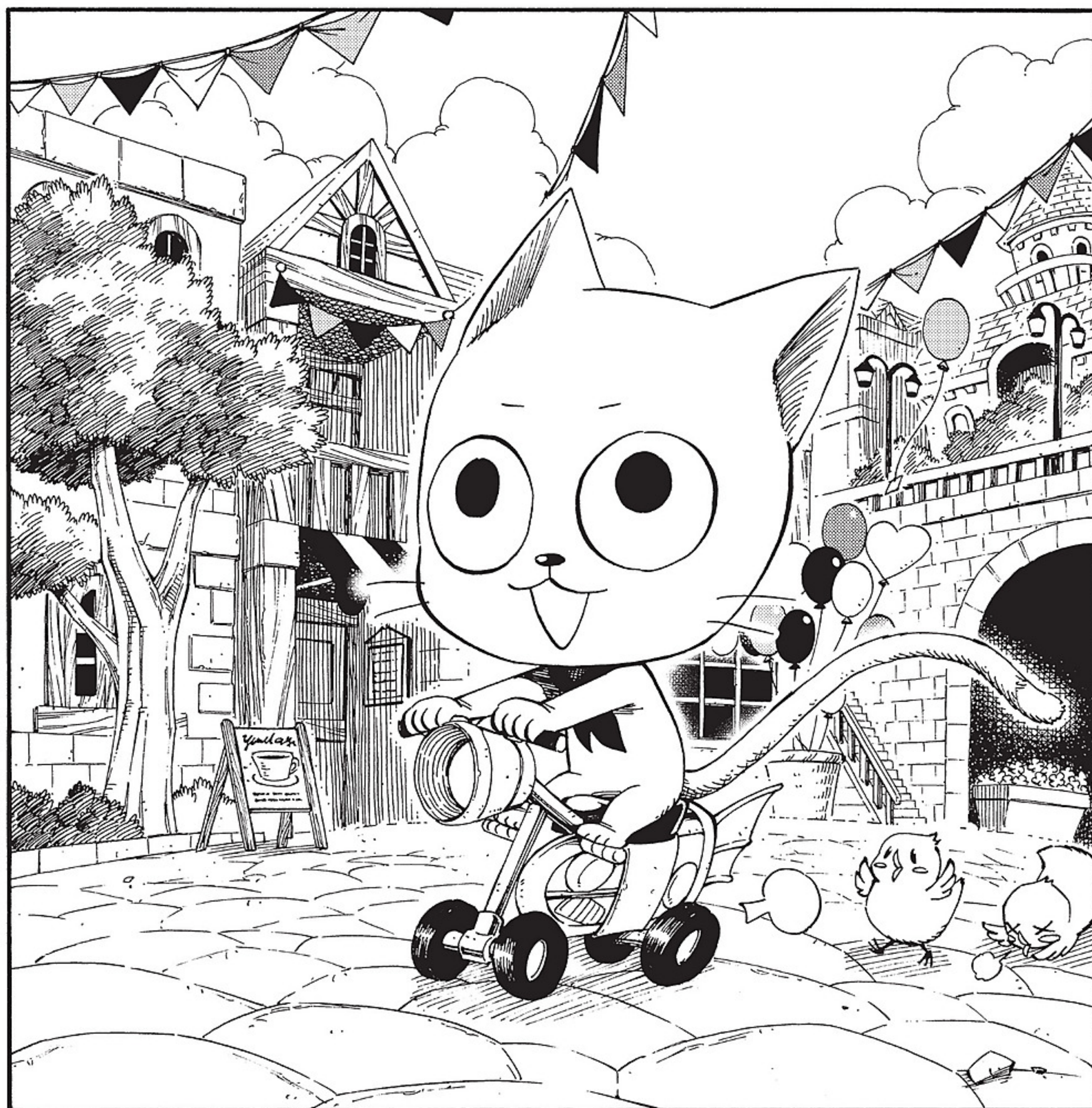
**For I am
the Dragon
King!!
I reign
supreme!!!!**

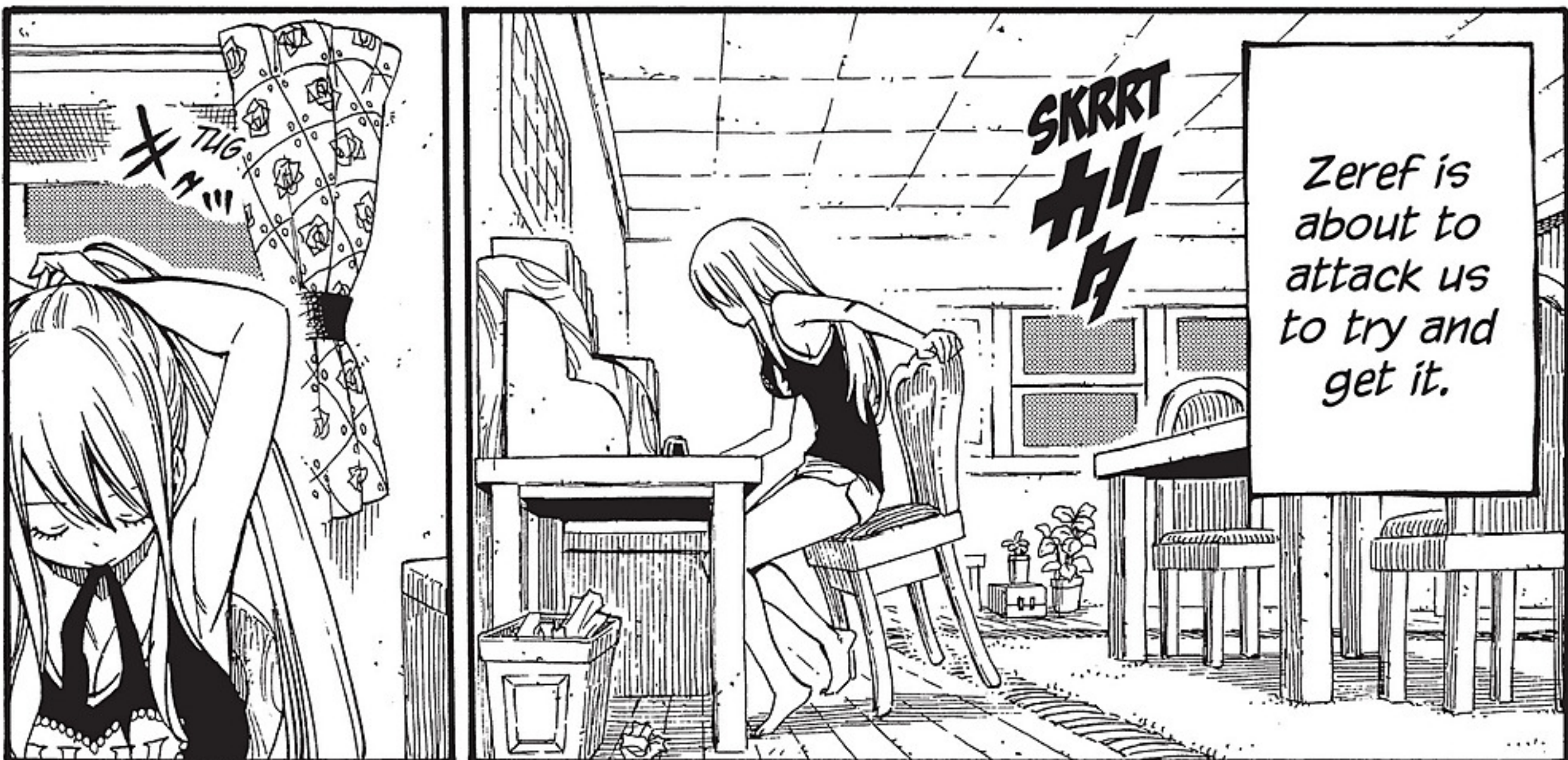
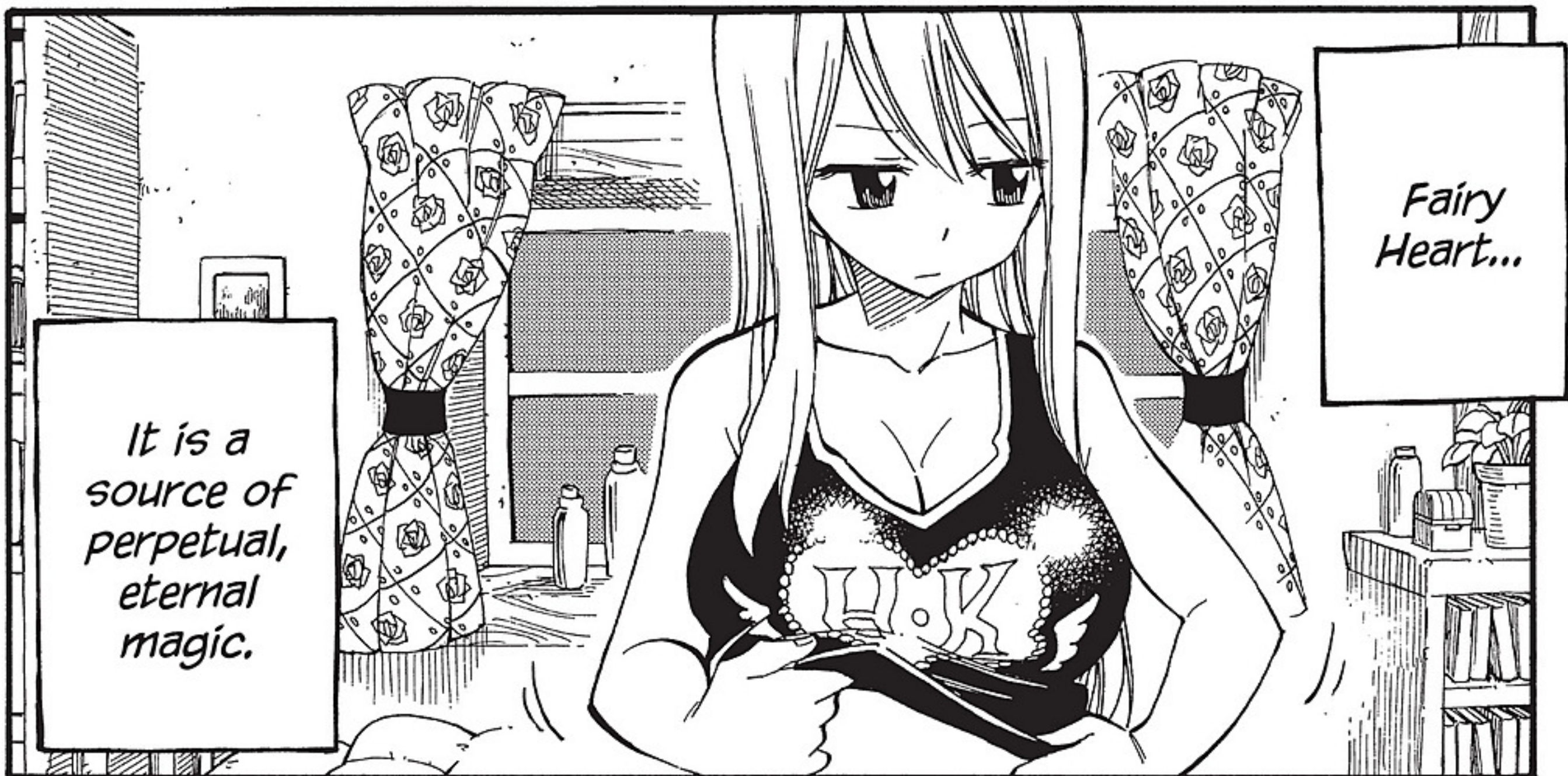
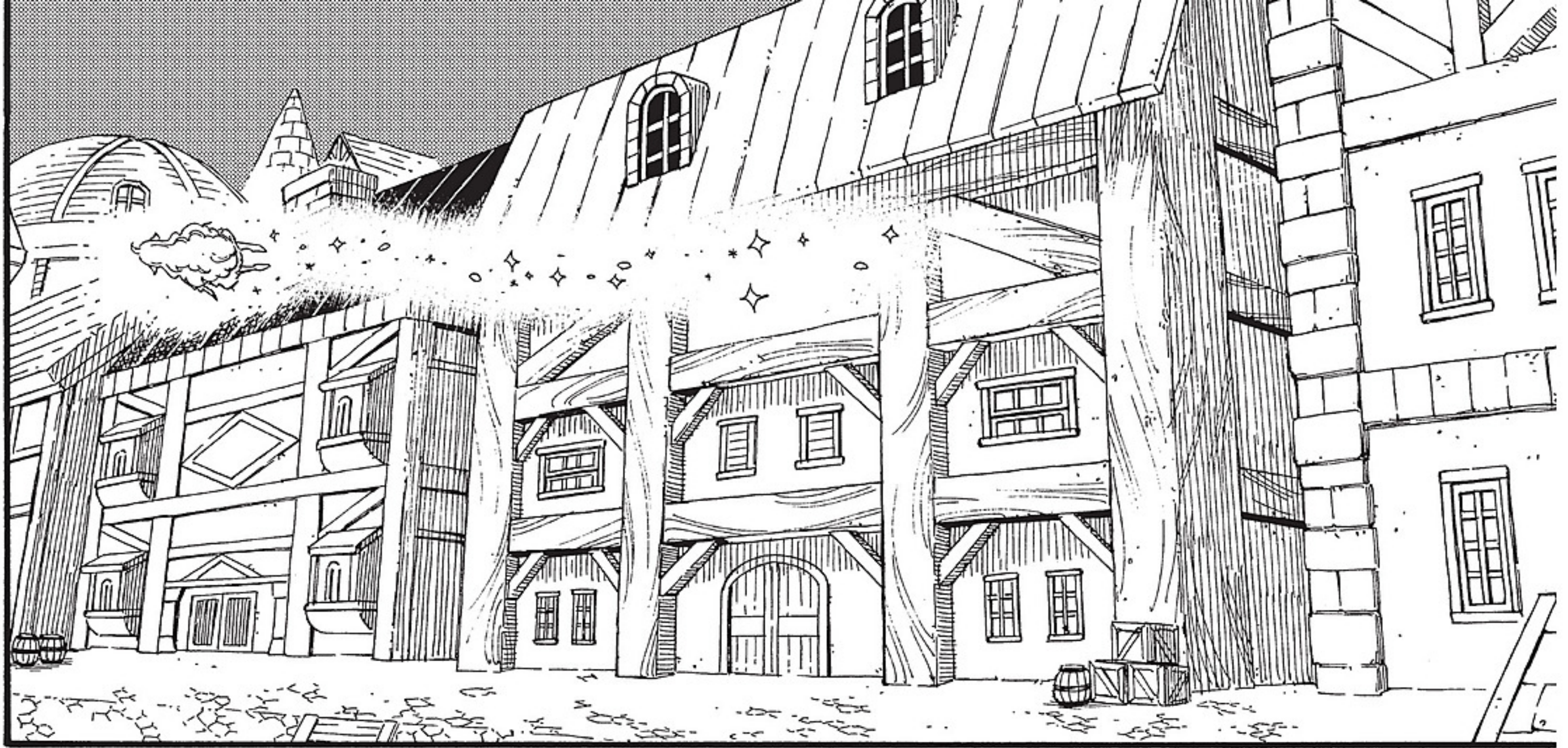
**I am
Acnologia
!!!!**

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 453: A Father's Job

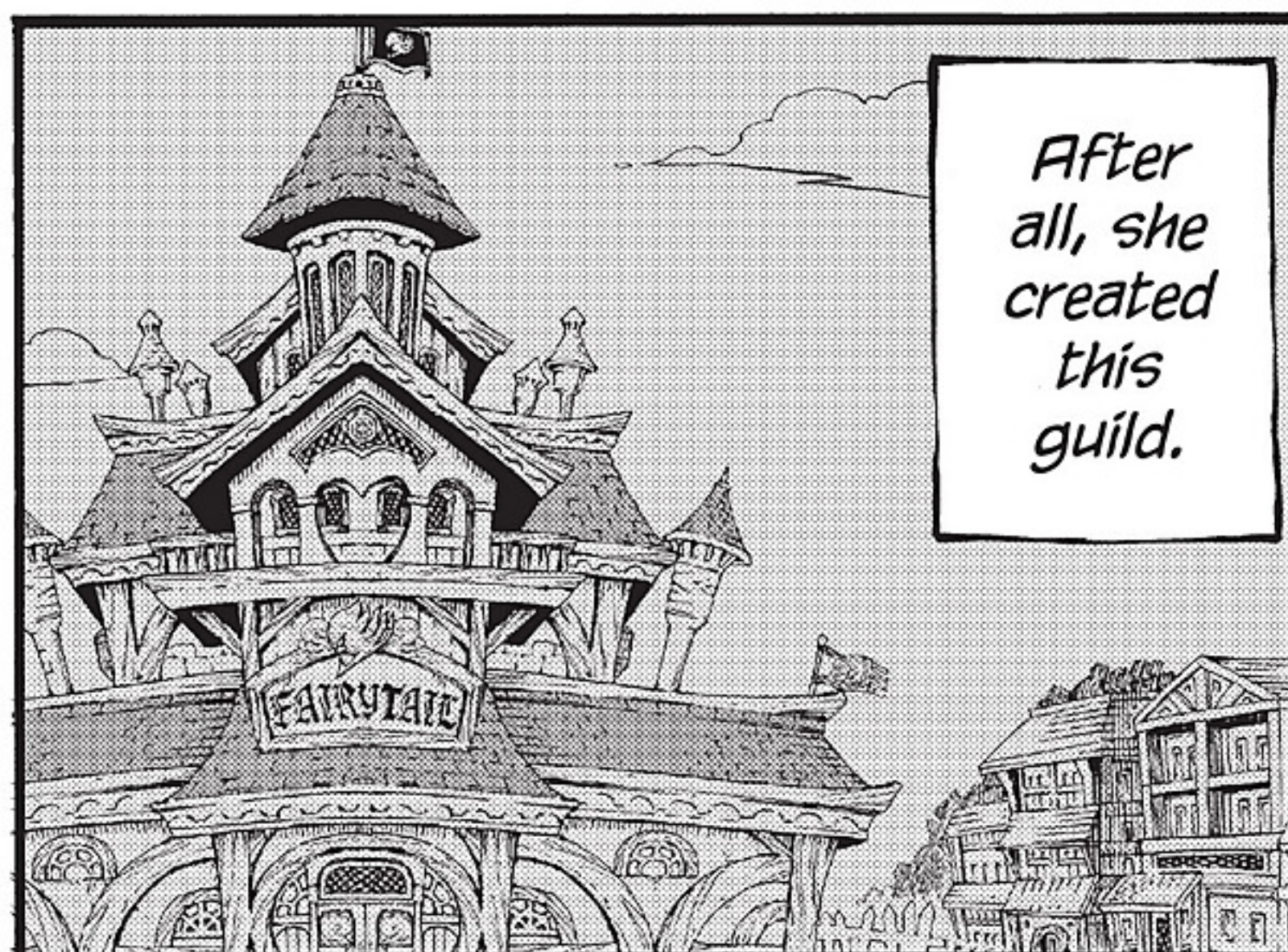






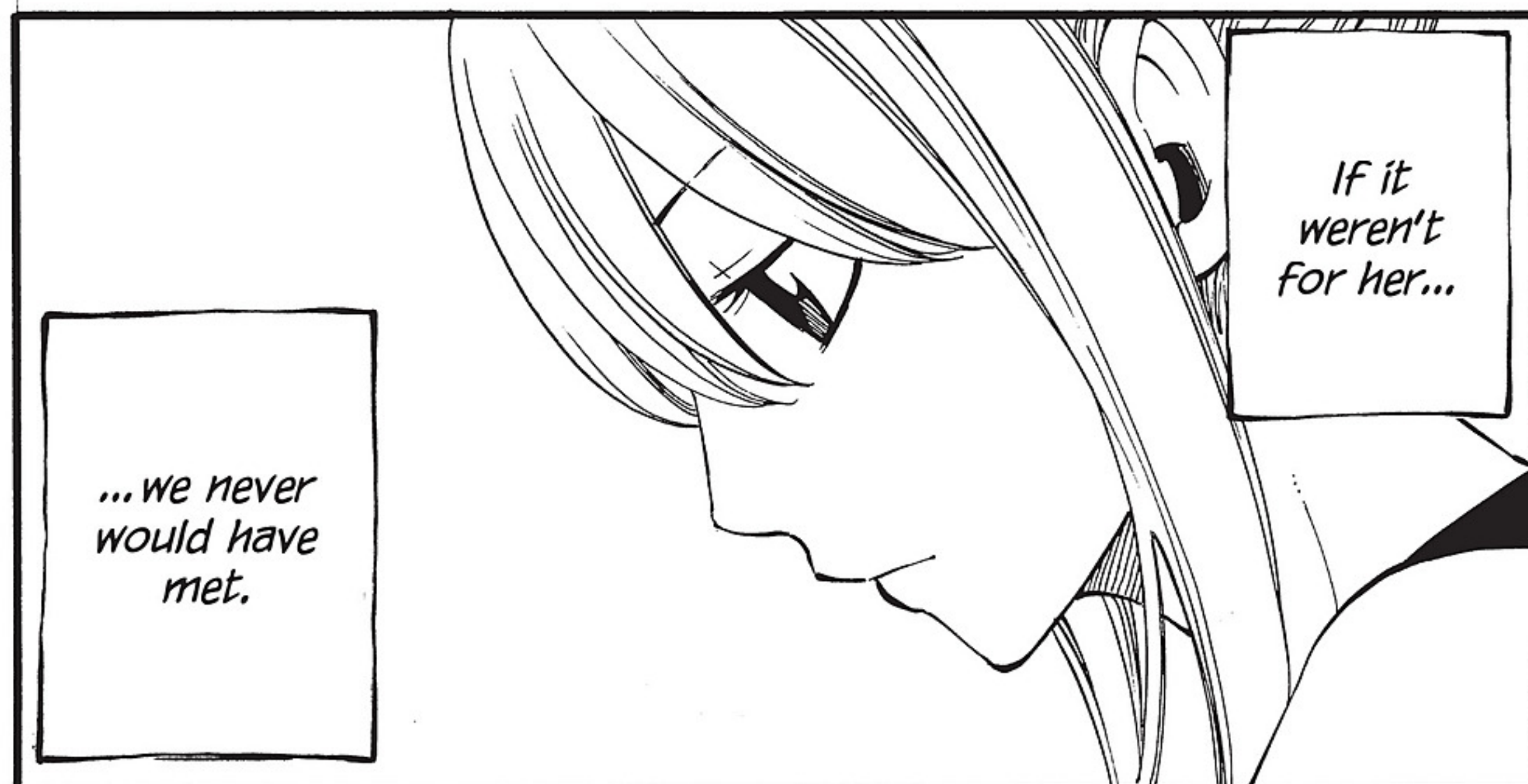
*We must
make sure
it is never
used for
evil.*

*We have to
protect it at
all costs.*



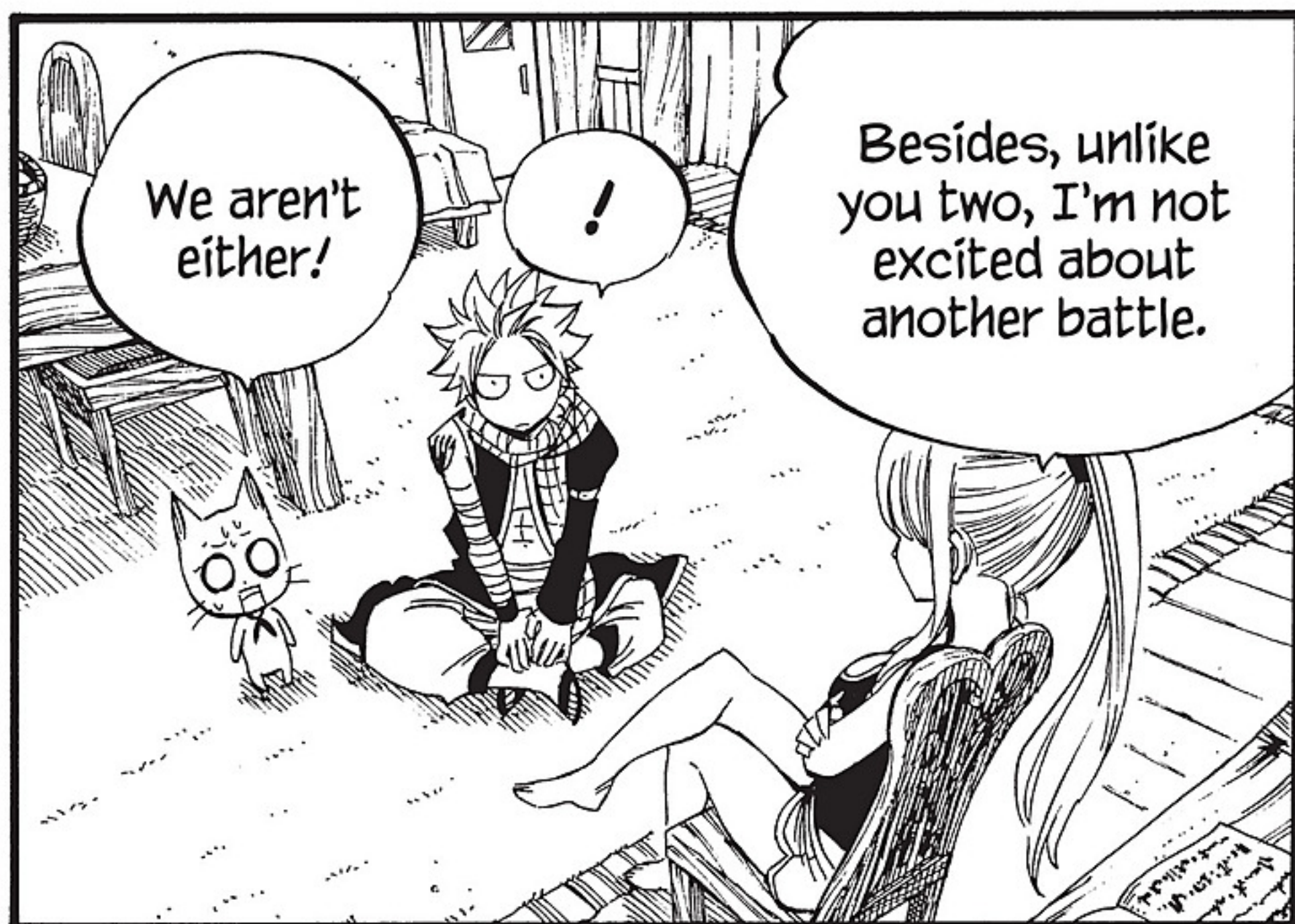
*After
all, she
created
this
guild.*

*No... I shouldn't say
"it." This is our first
master, and that's
reason enough to
protect her!*



*...we never
would have
met.*

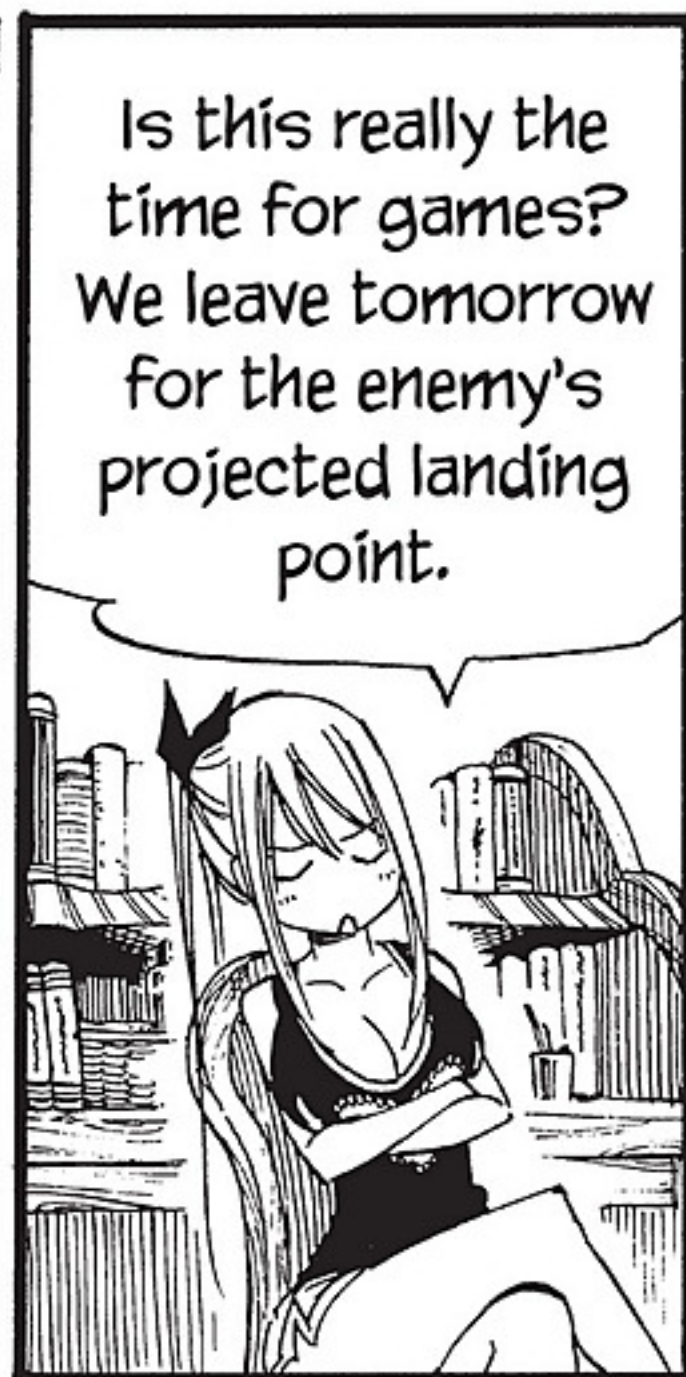
*If it
weren't
for her...*



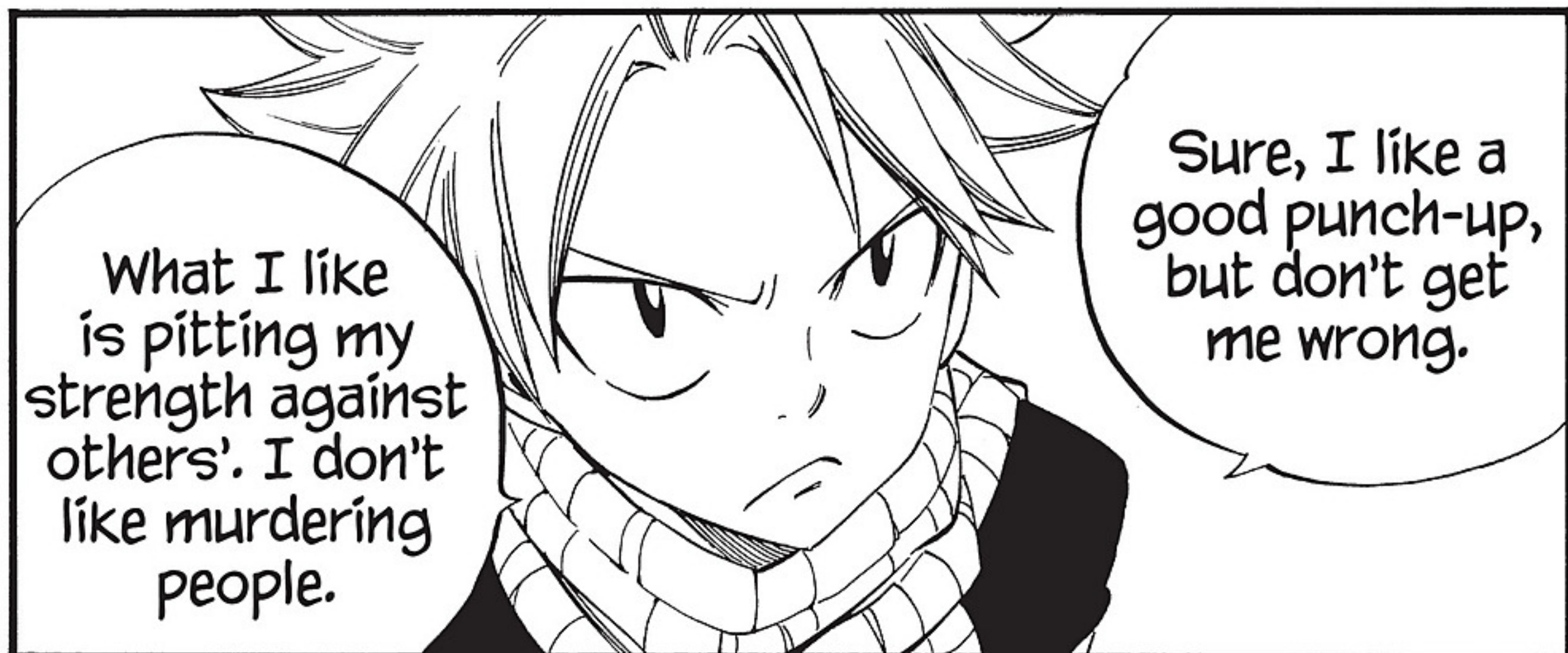
We aren't
either!

!

Besides, unlike
you two, I'm not
excited about
another battle.



Is this really the
time for games?
We leave tomorrow
for the enemy's
projected landing
point.



What I like
is pitting my
strength against
others'. I don't
like murdering
people.

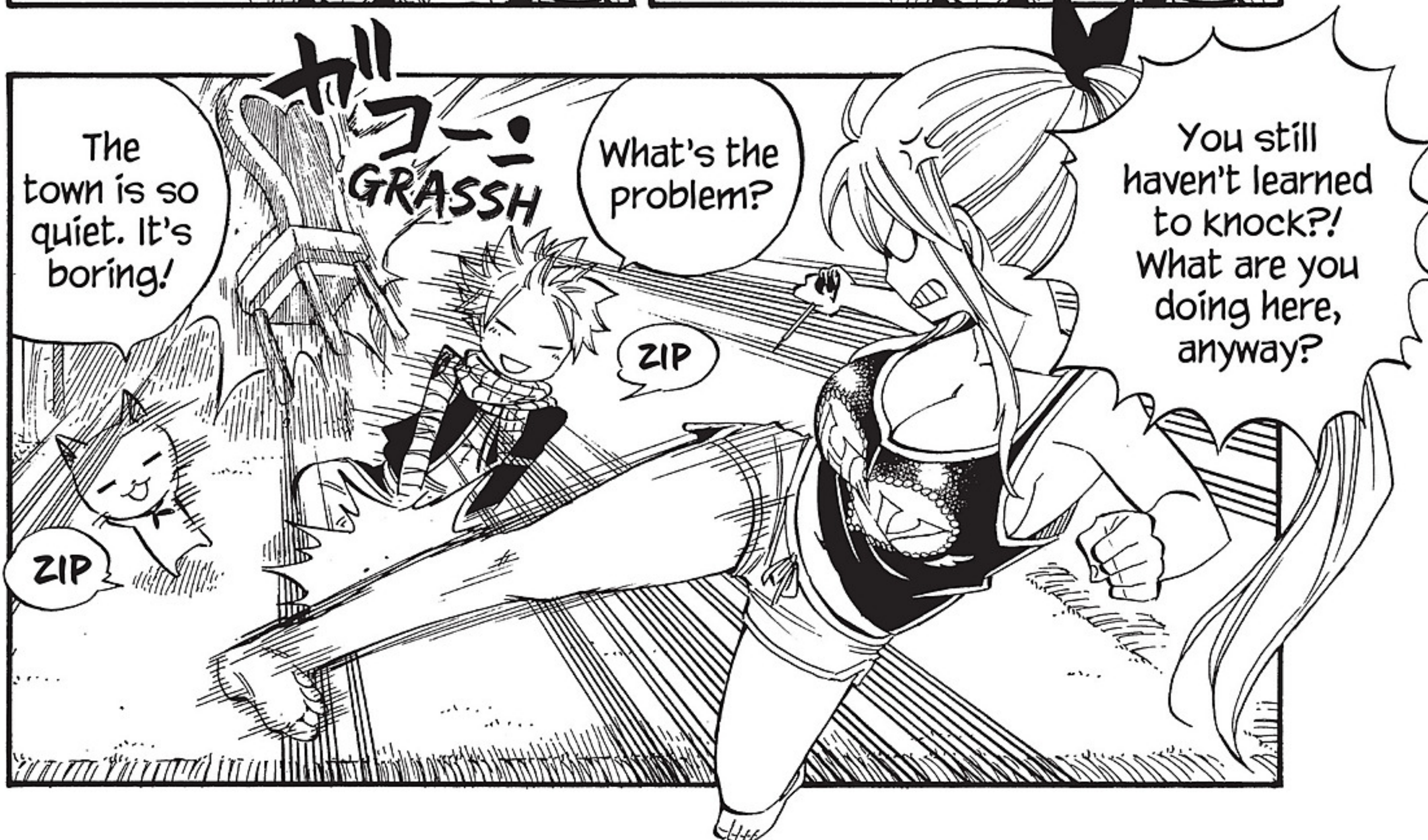
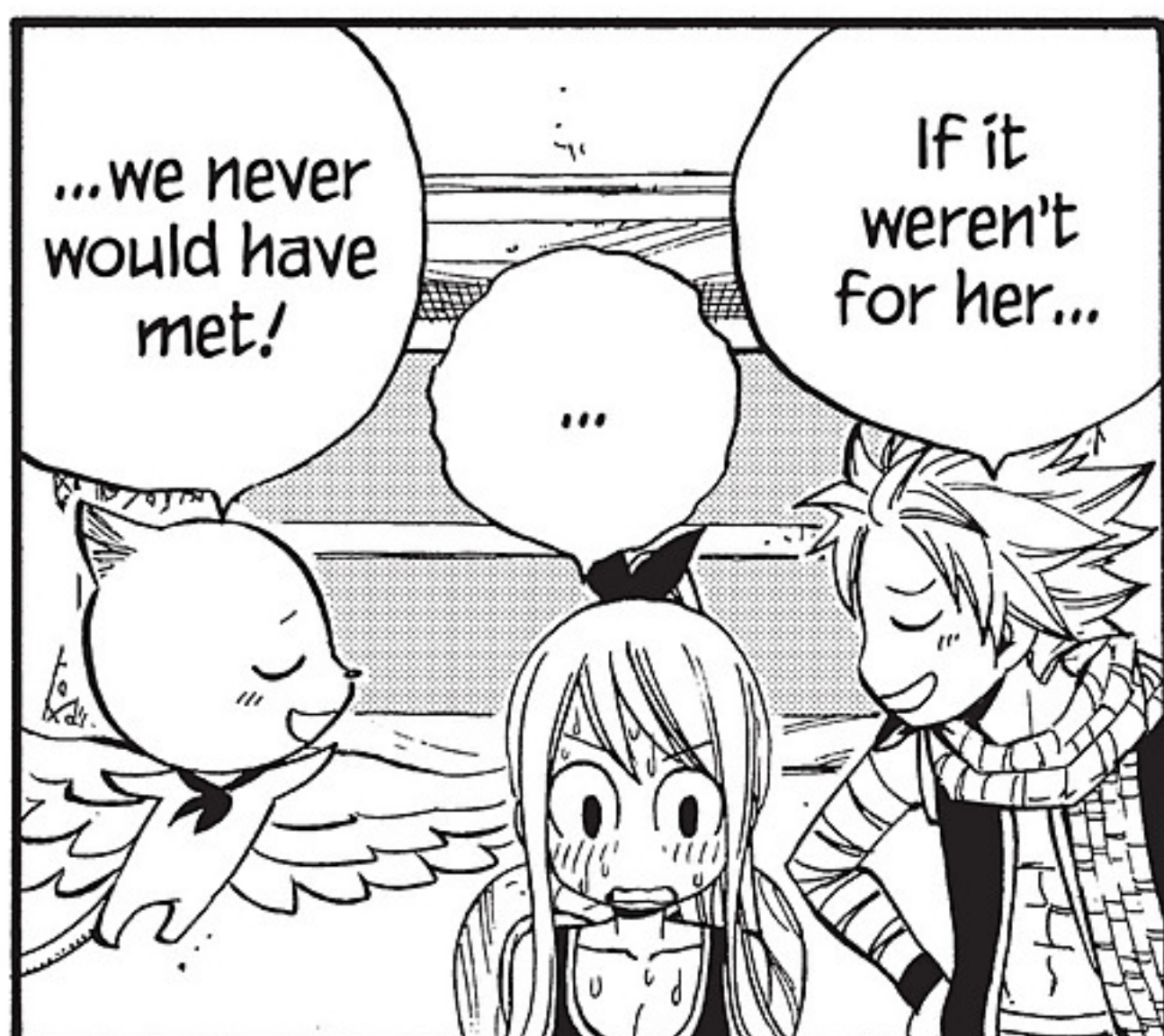
Sure, I like a
good punch-up,
but don't get
me wrong.

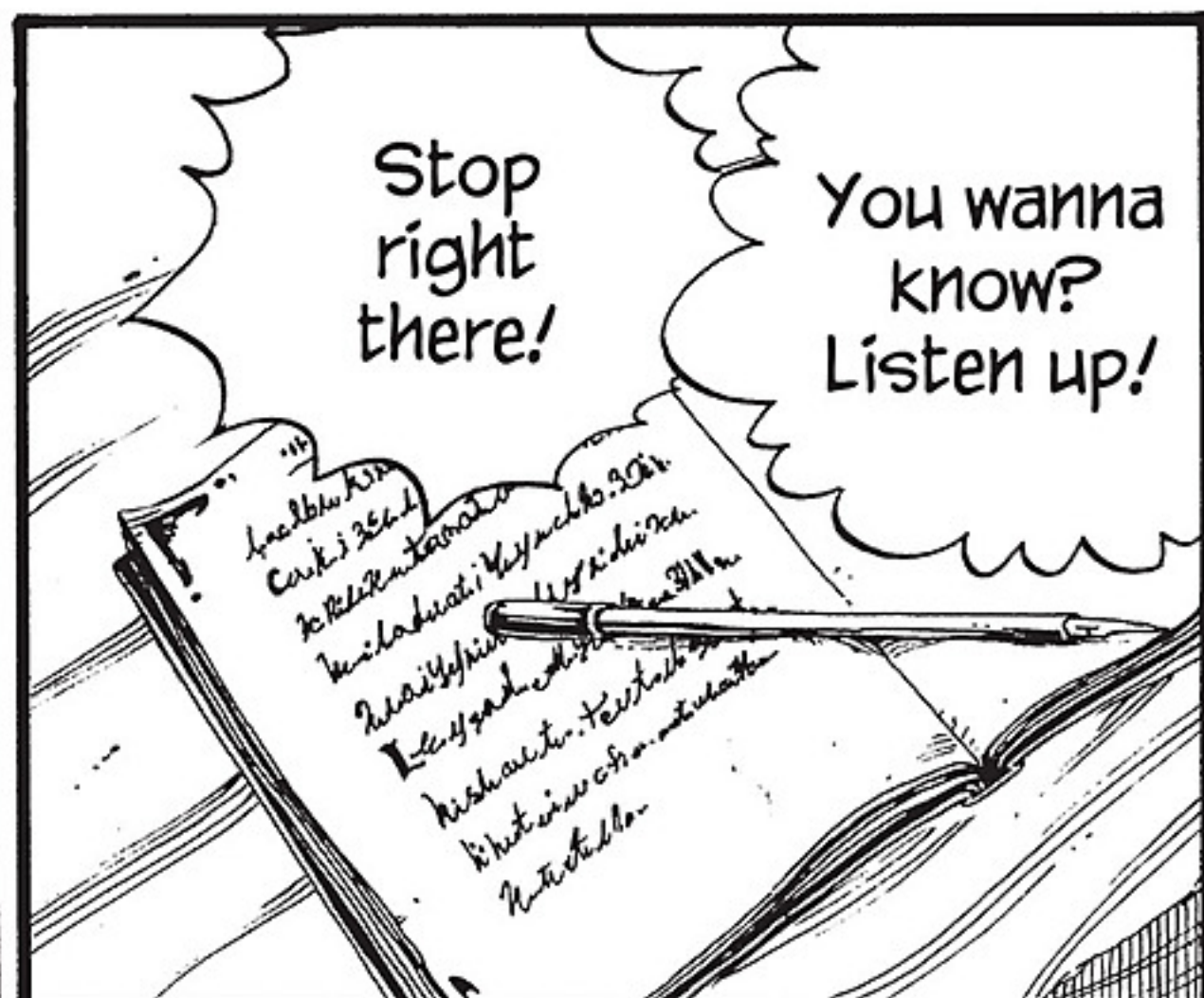
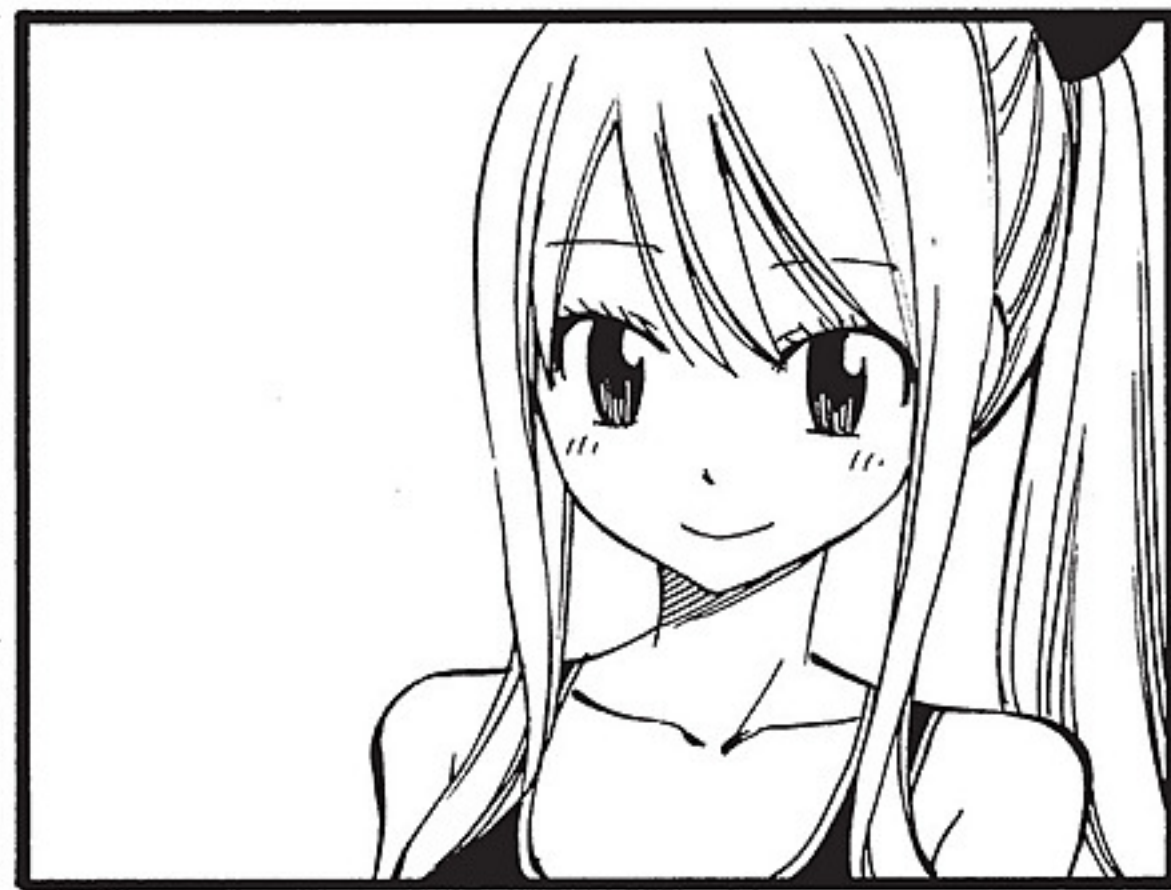


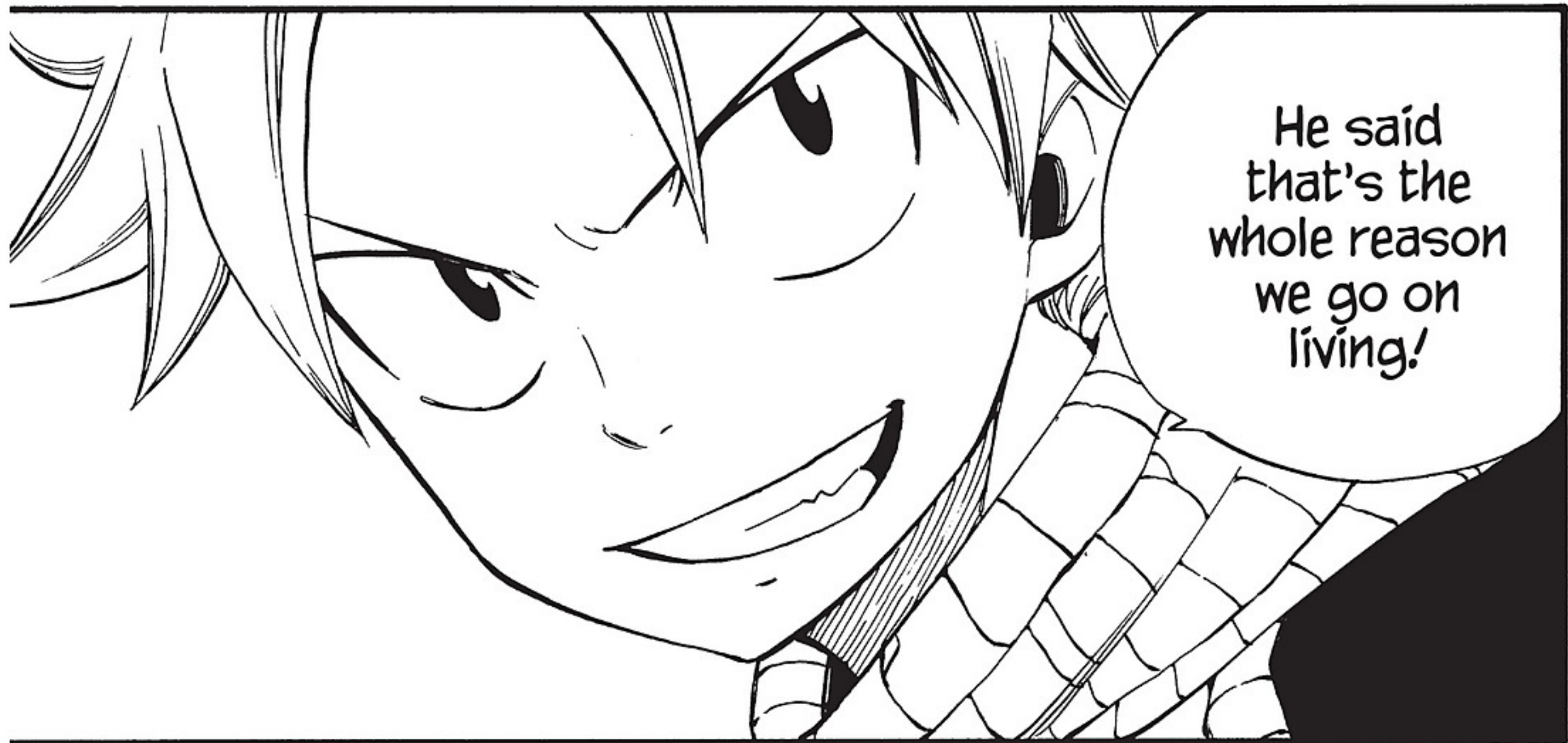
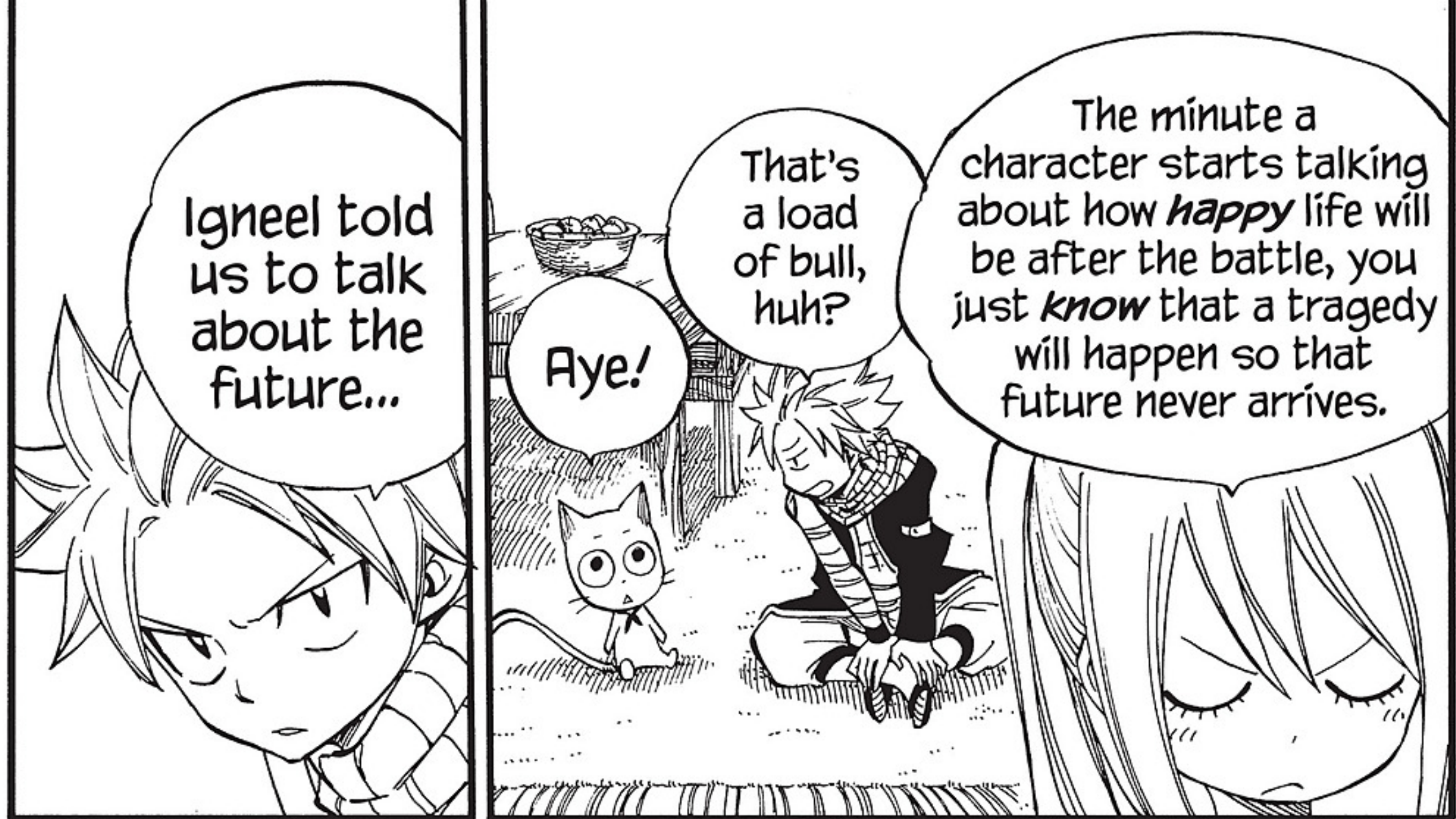
But this
time, it ain't
gonna be like
that.

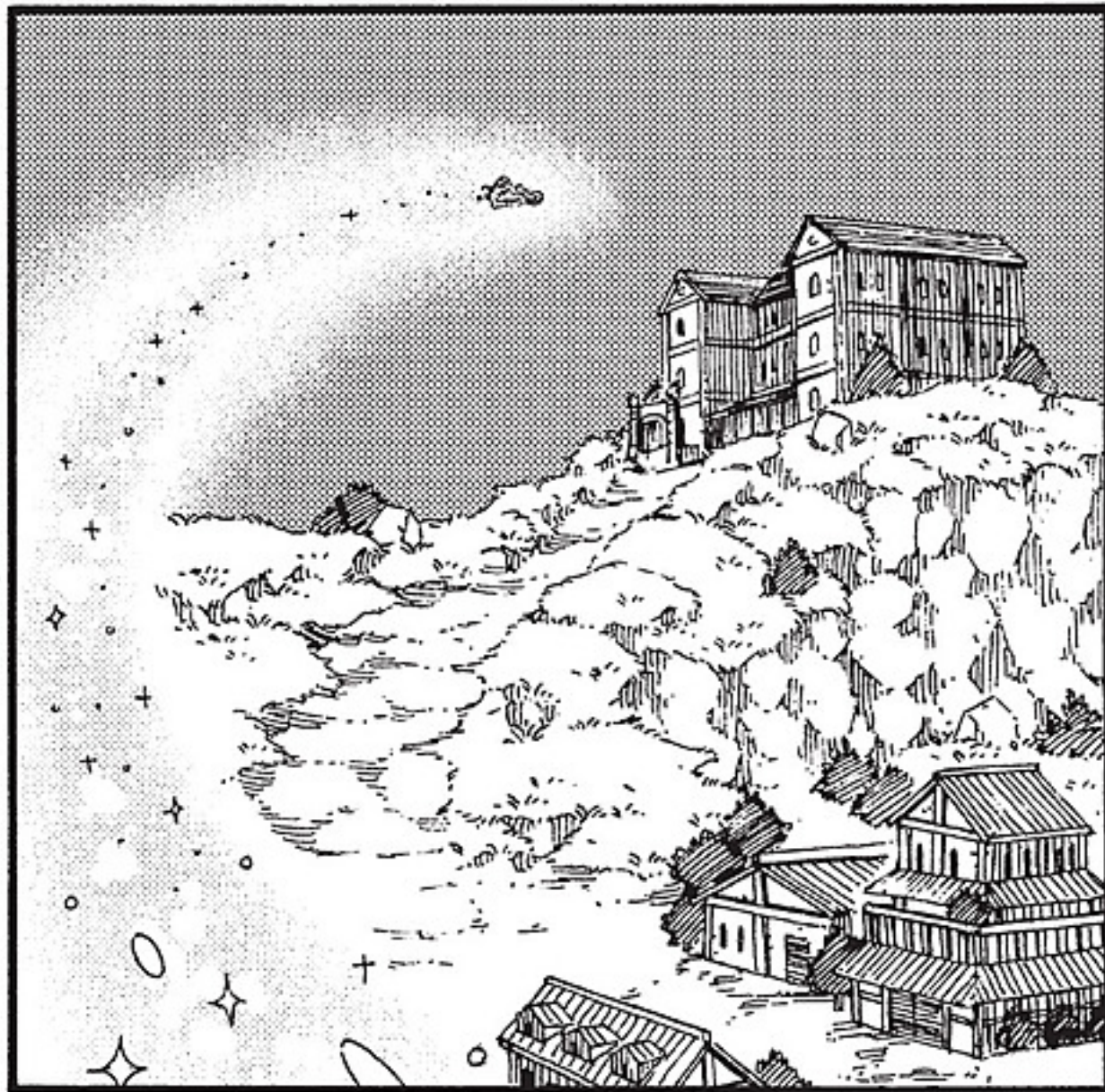
Ain't no
better feeling
than goin'
at it with all
you got and
seeing who
comes out
on top!











Yeah!
Strip
poker!!

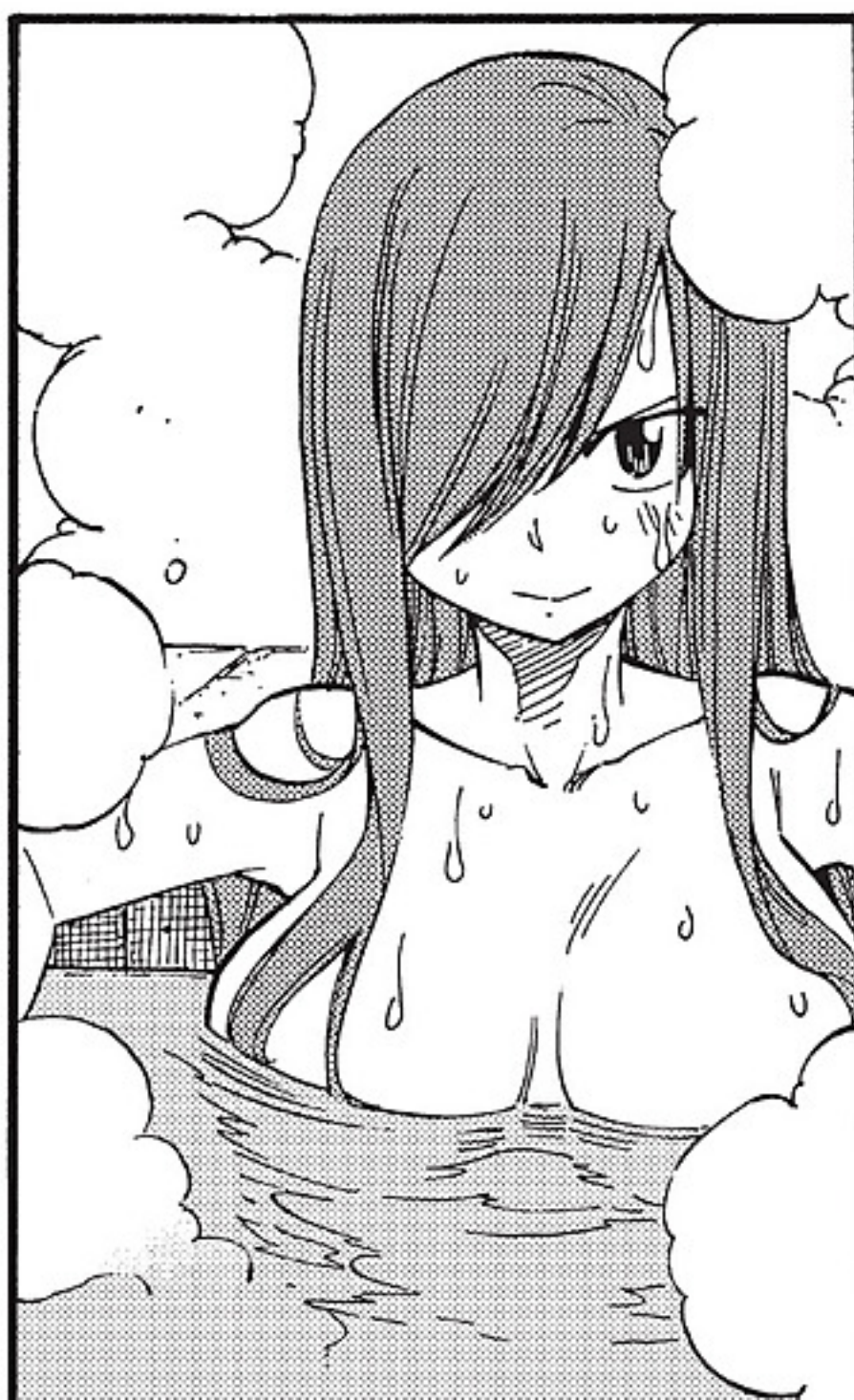
Not on your
life, fur-face!
And besides,
what would
you take
off?!



I imagine so.
The enemy is
Zeref, after all.



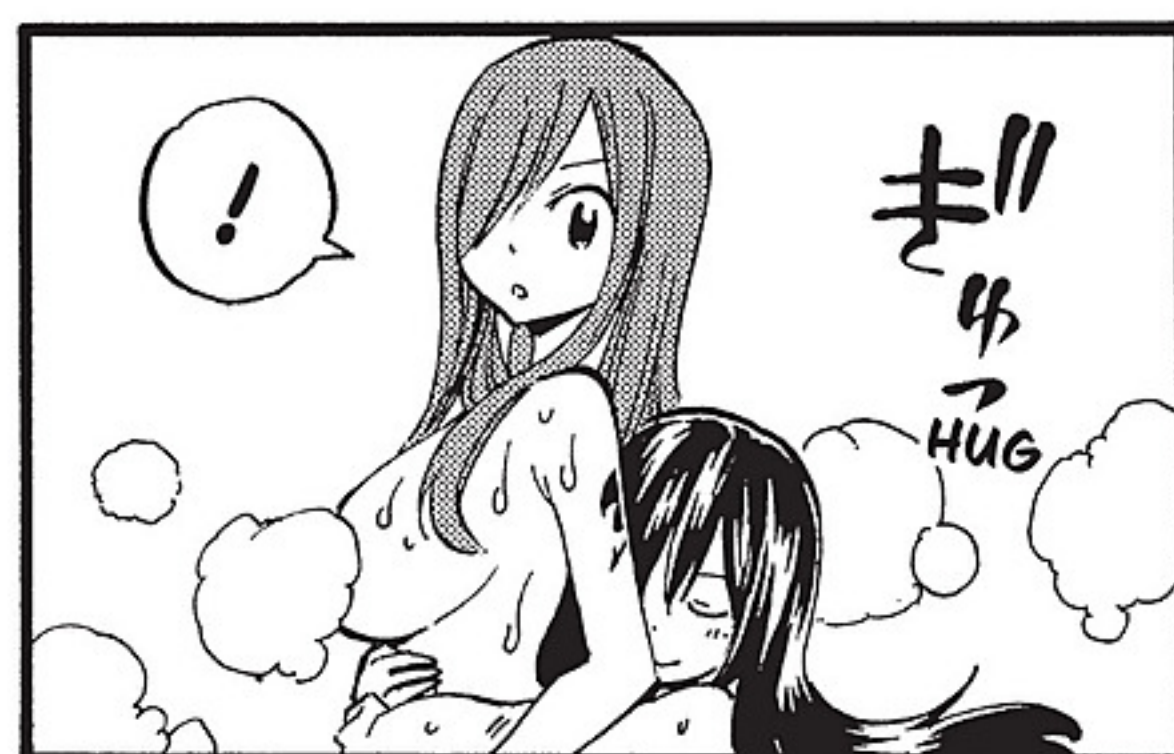
Will Crime
Sorcière be
helping us
out?

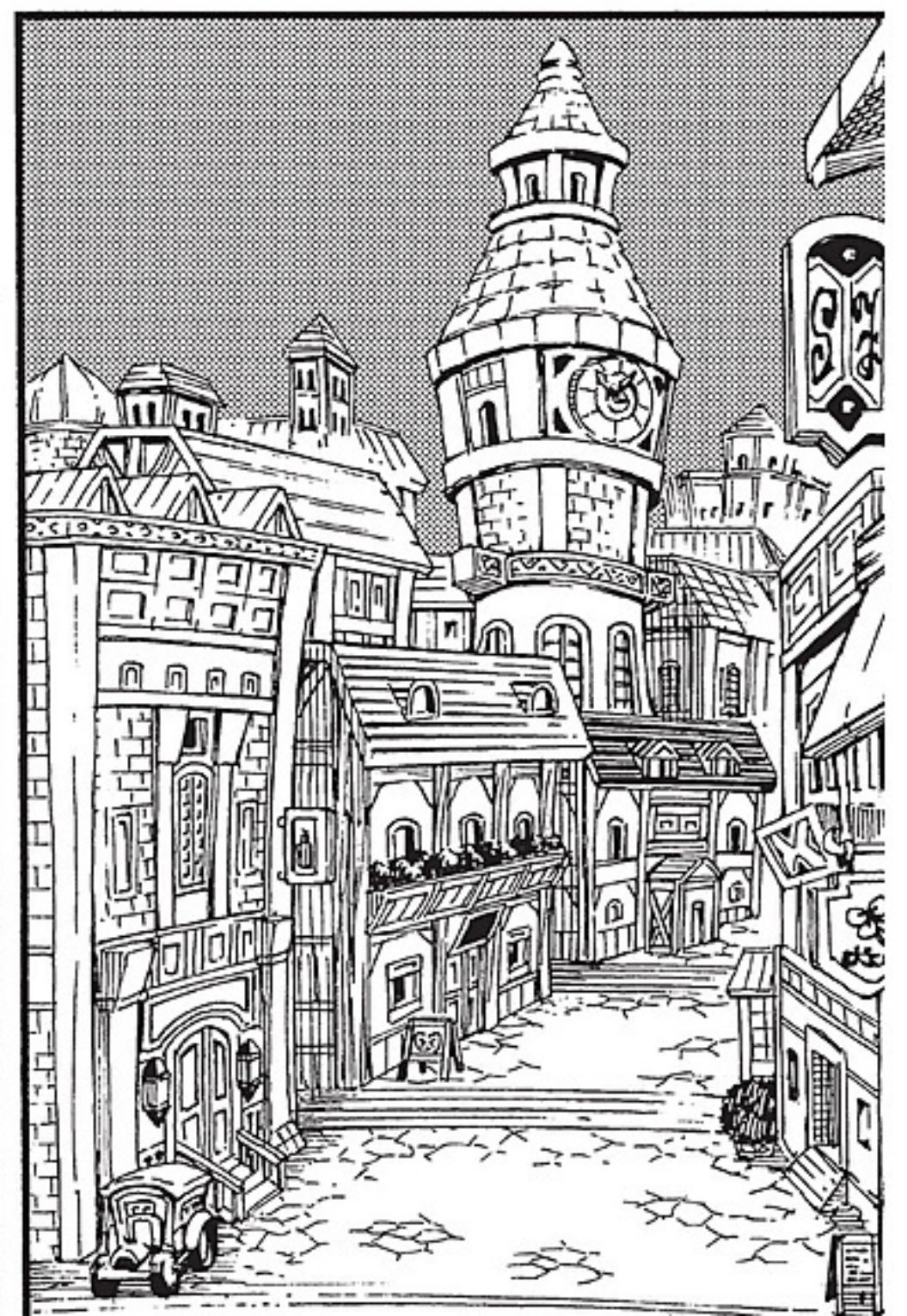
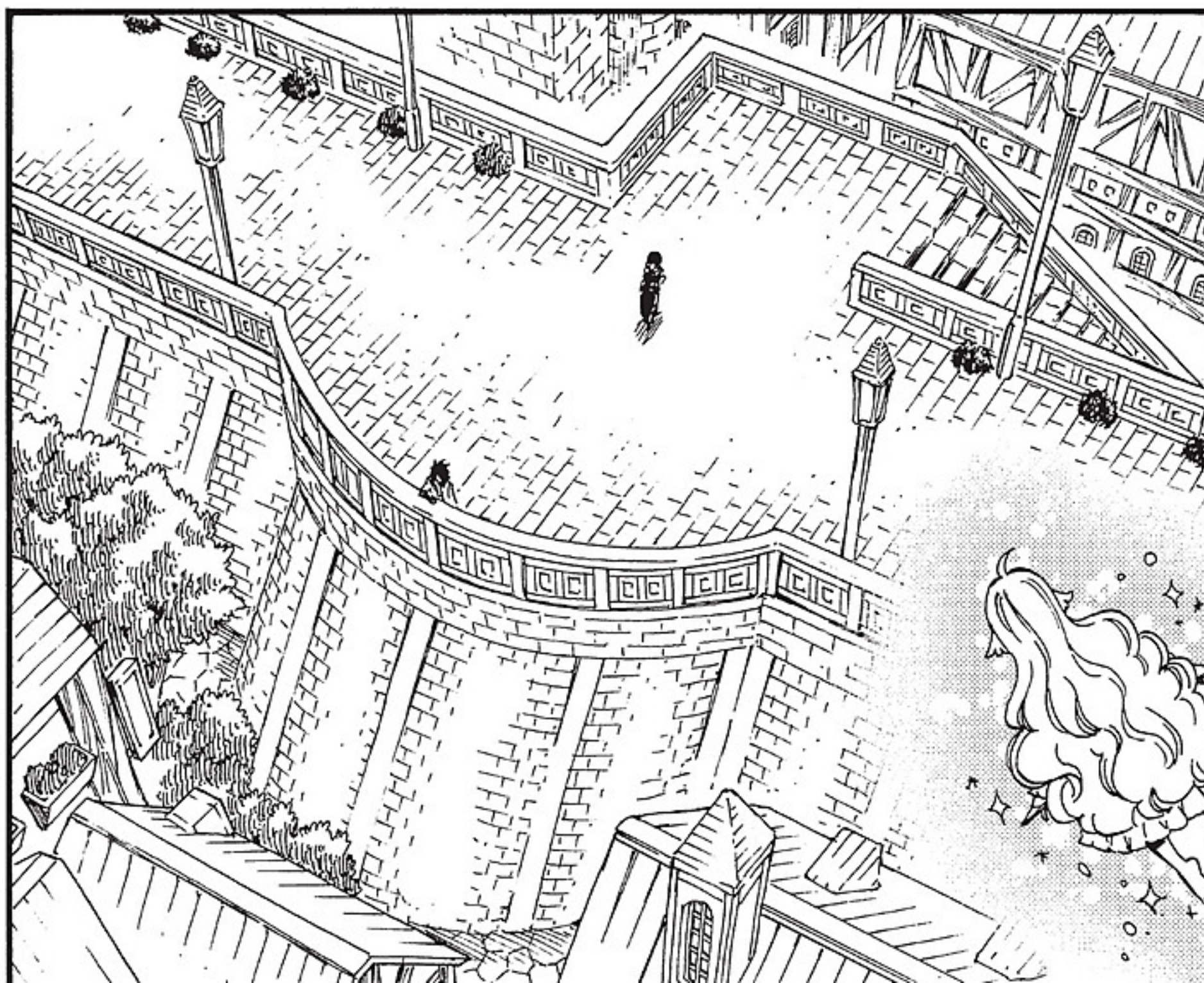
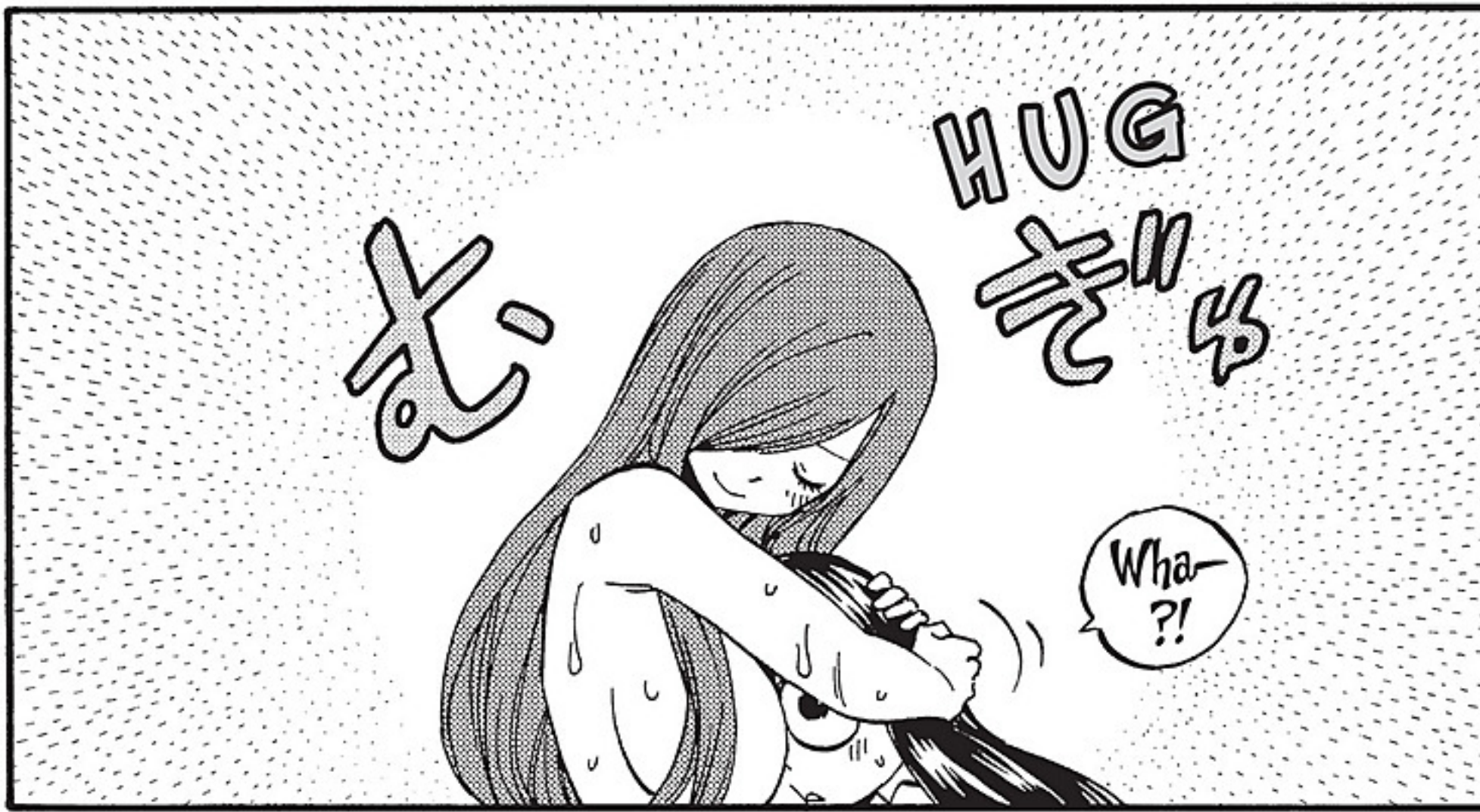


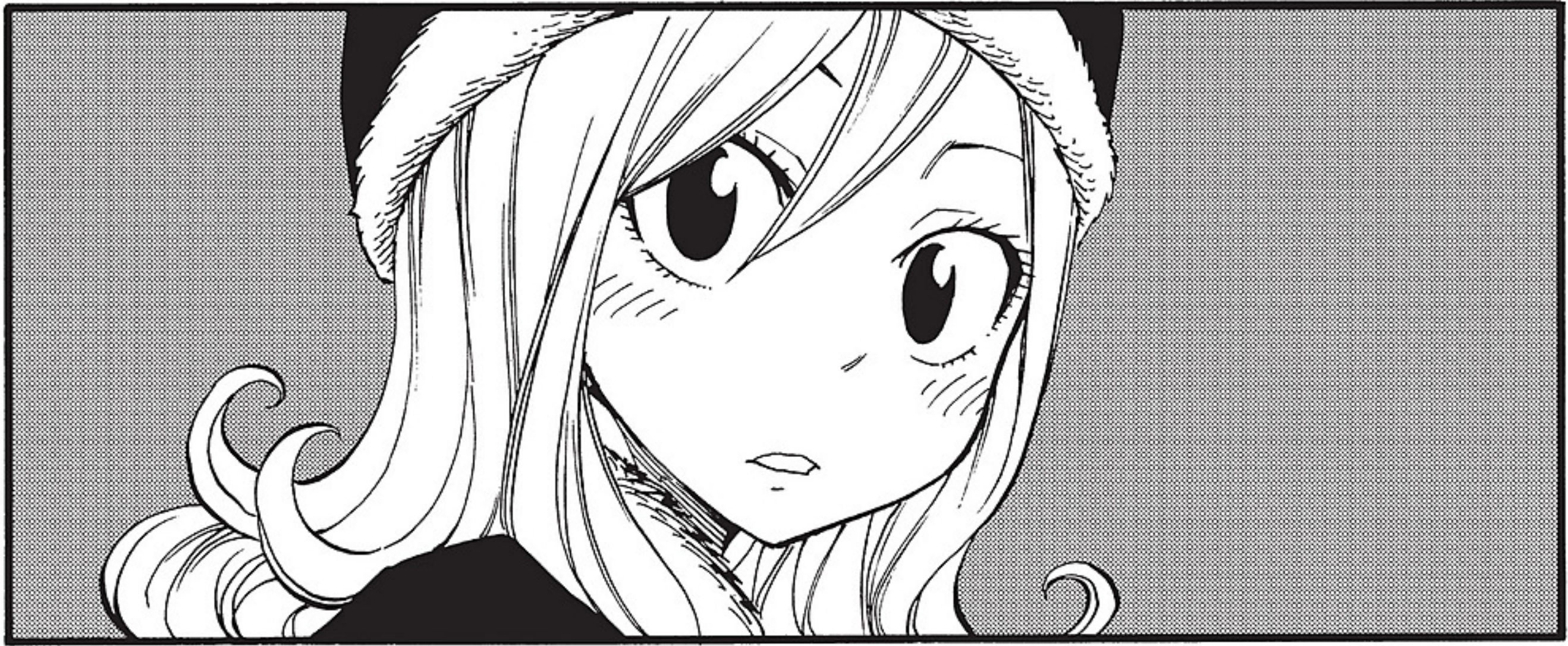
Carla!

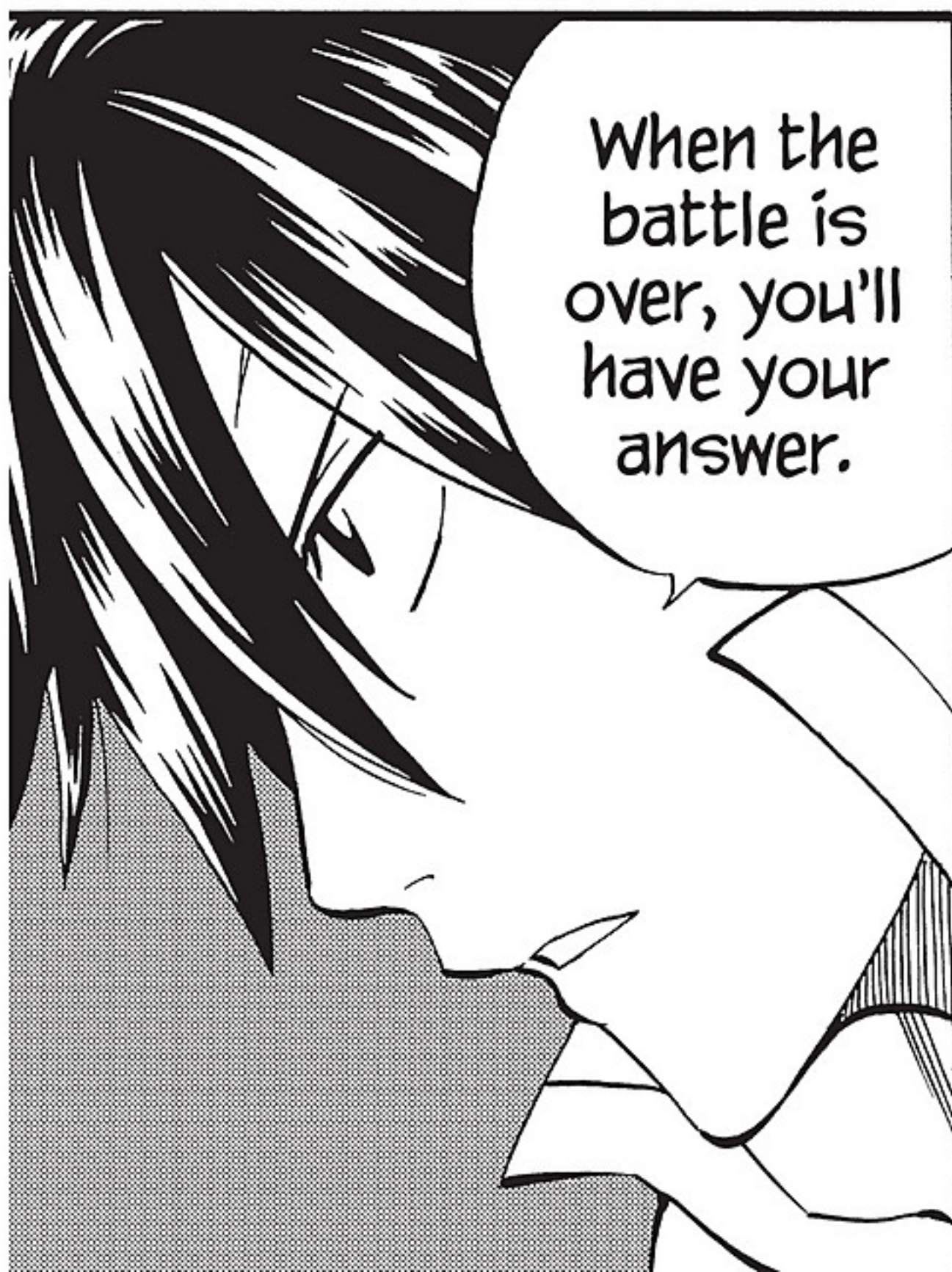
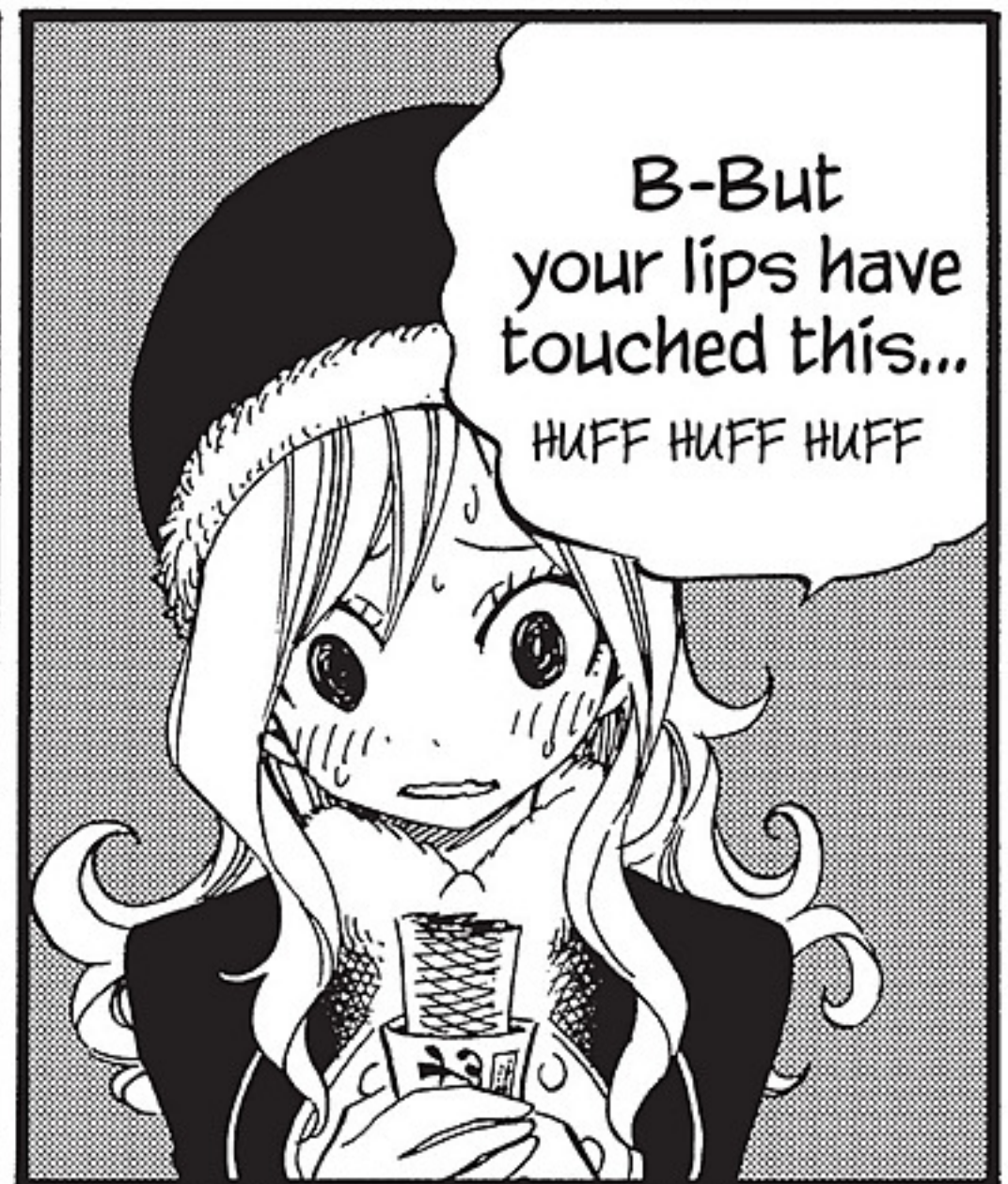
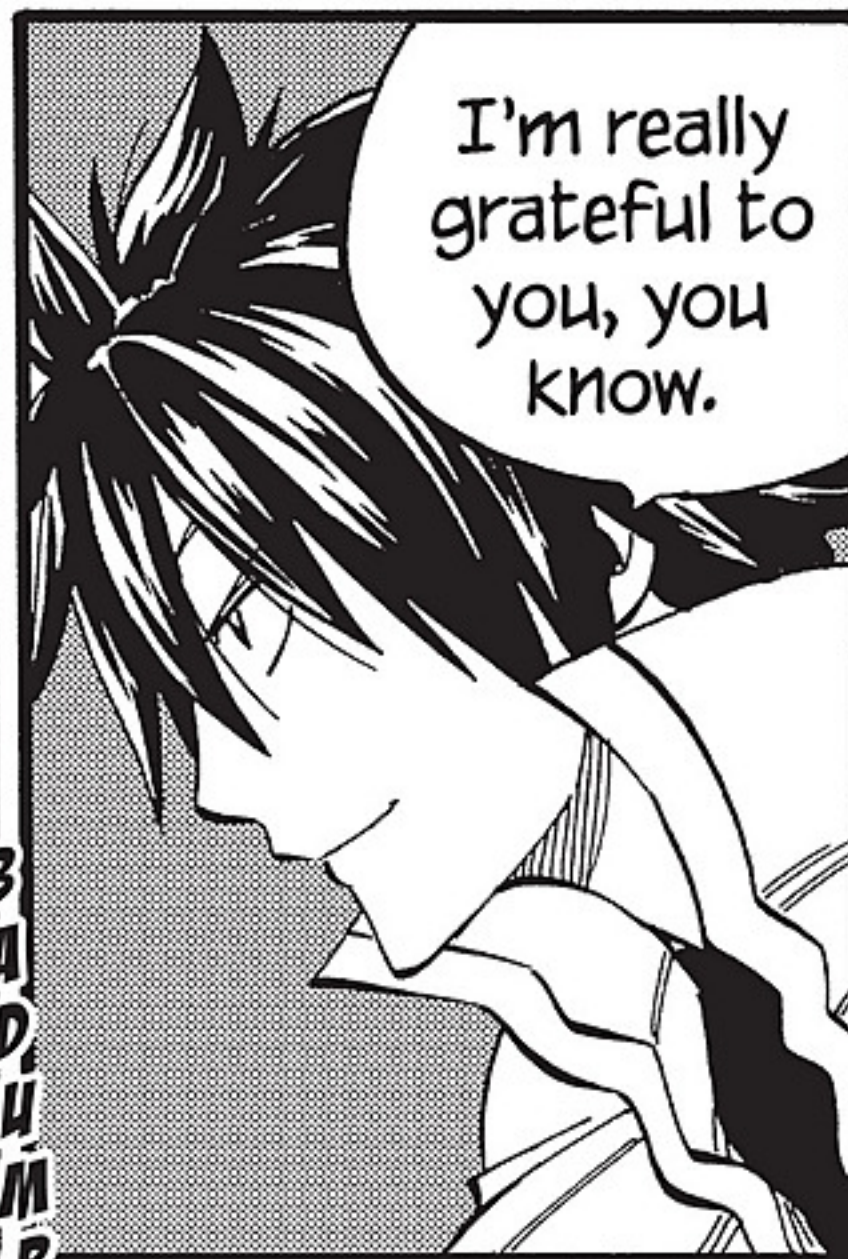
Even if they *are*
the people who
destroyed Cait
Shelter.

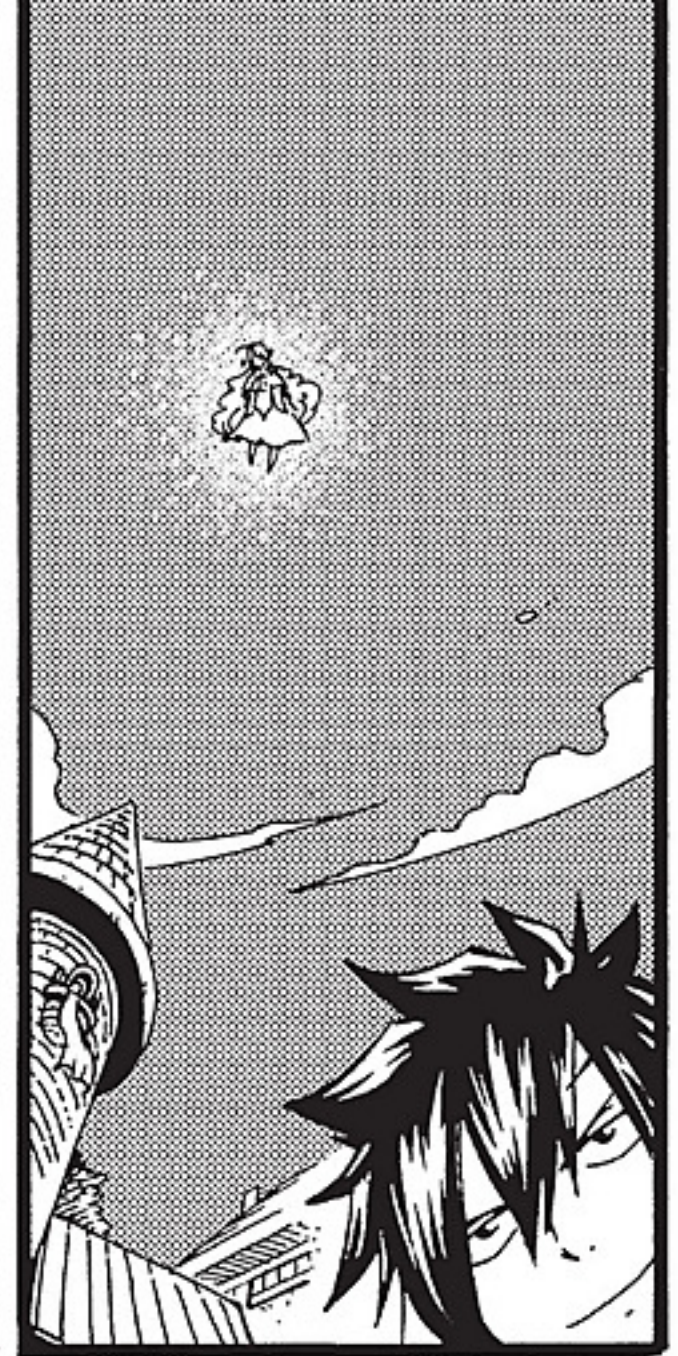
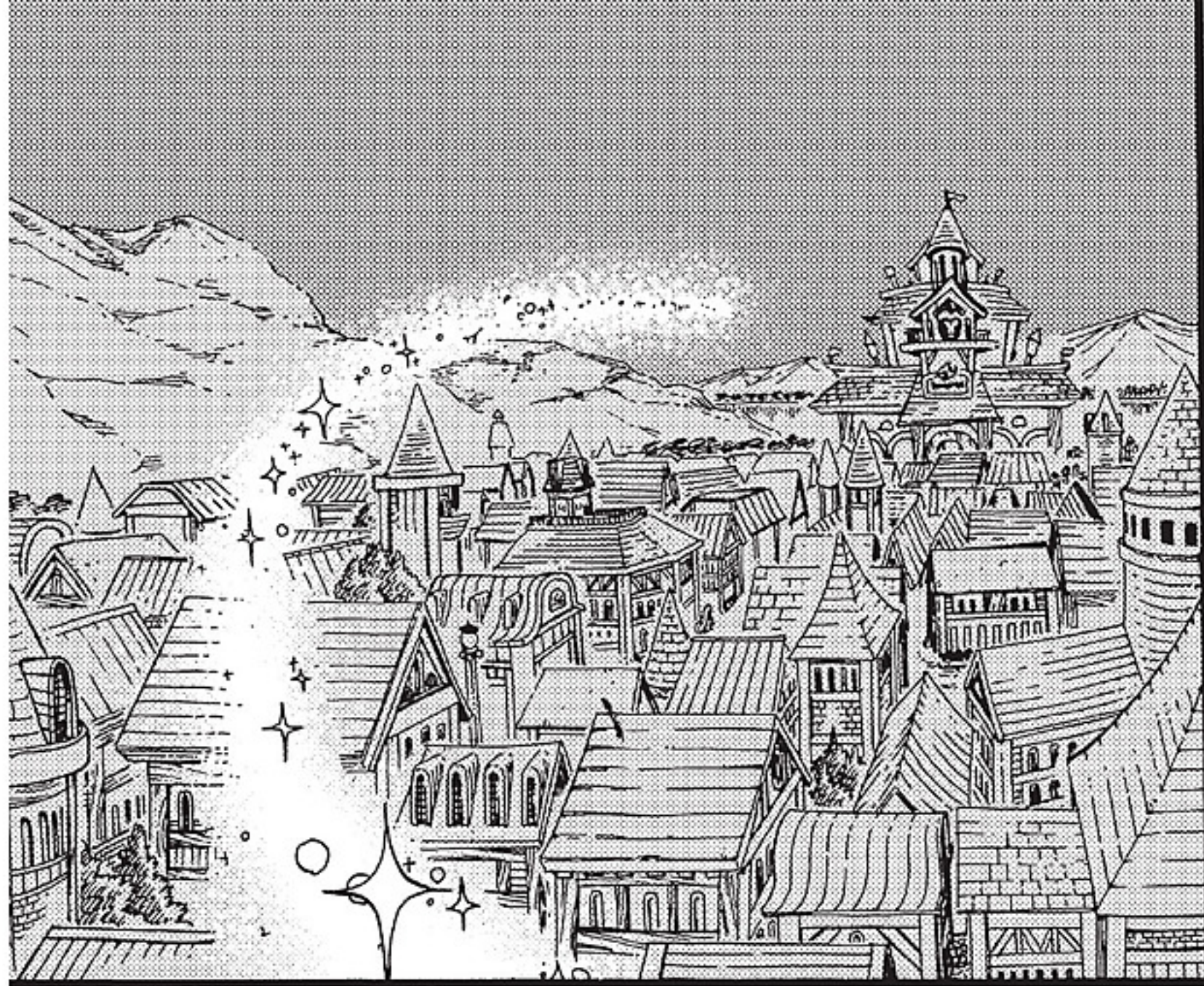
That's very
reassuring.











Are they coming from the north, south, or even the west...? If we knew where they'd be landing, we could make better plans.



Hey, I made this top-quality radar myself!!

Can we... really count on that?

Still no sign of them anywhere in Fiore.

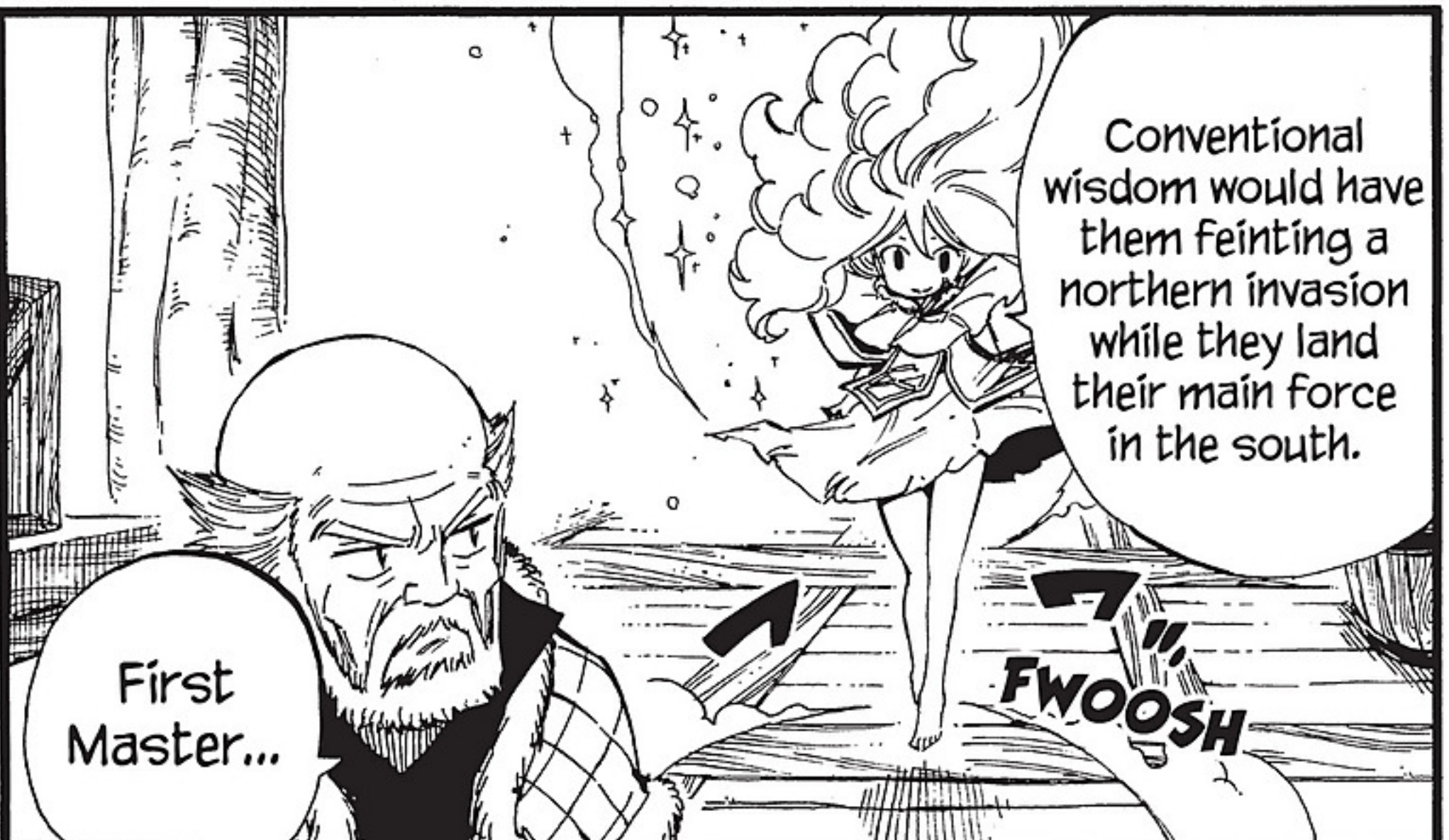
Warren, any enemy movements?



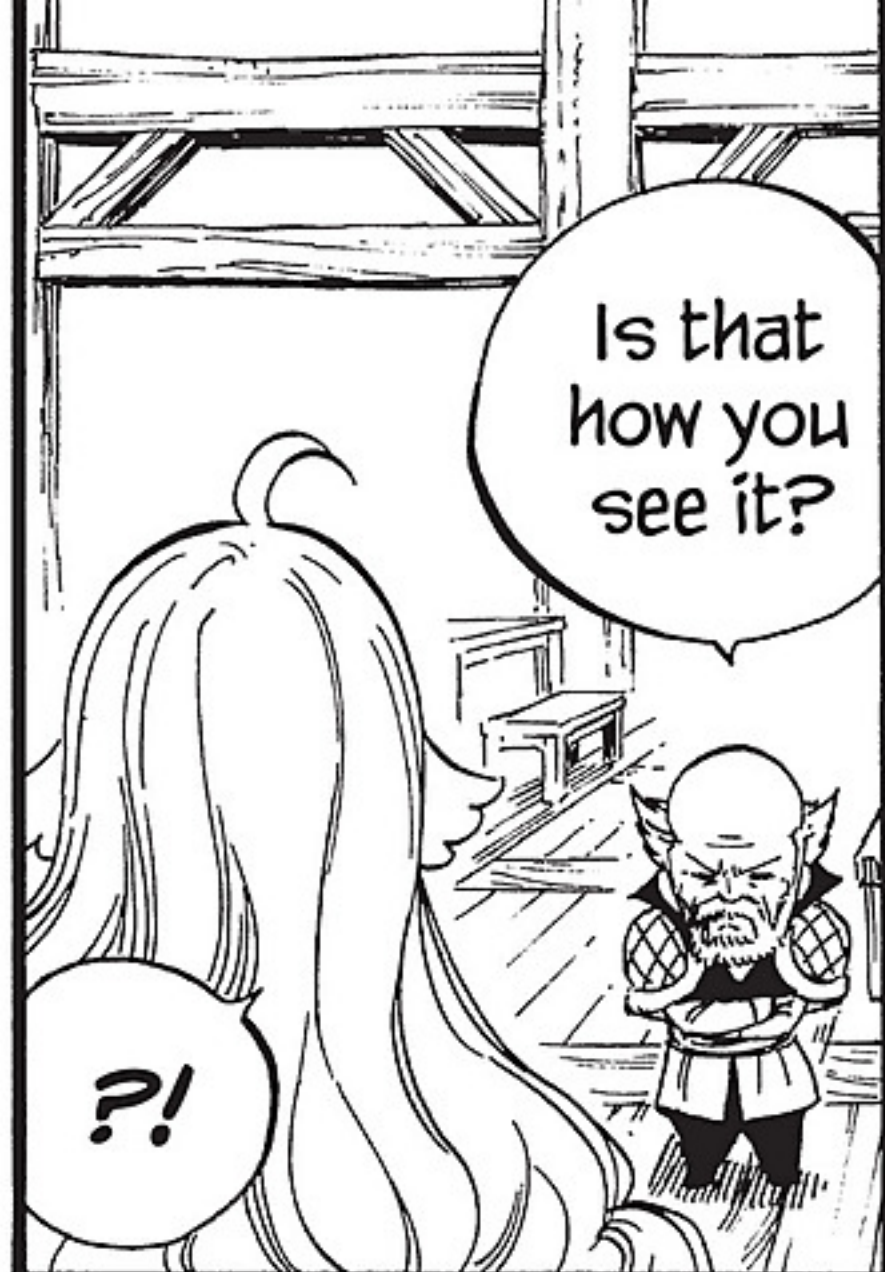
I was observing everyone prior to the battle.



First Master...



Conventional wisdom would have them feinting a northern invasion while they land their main force in the south.



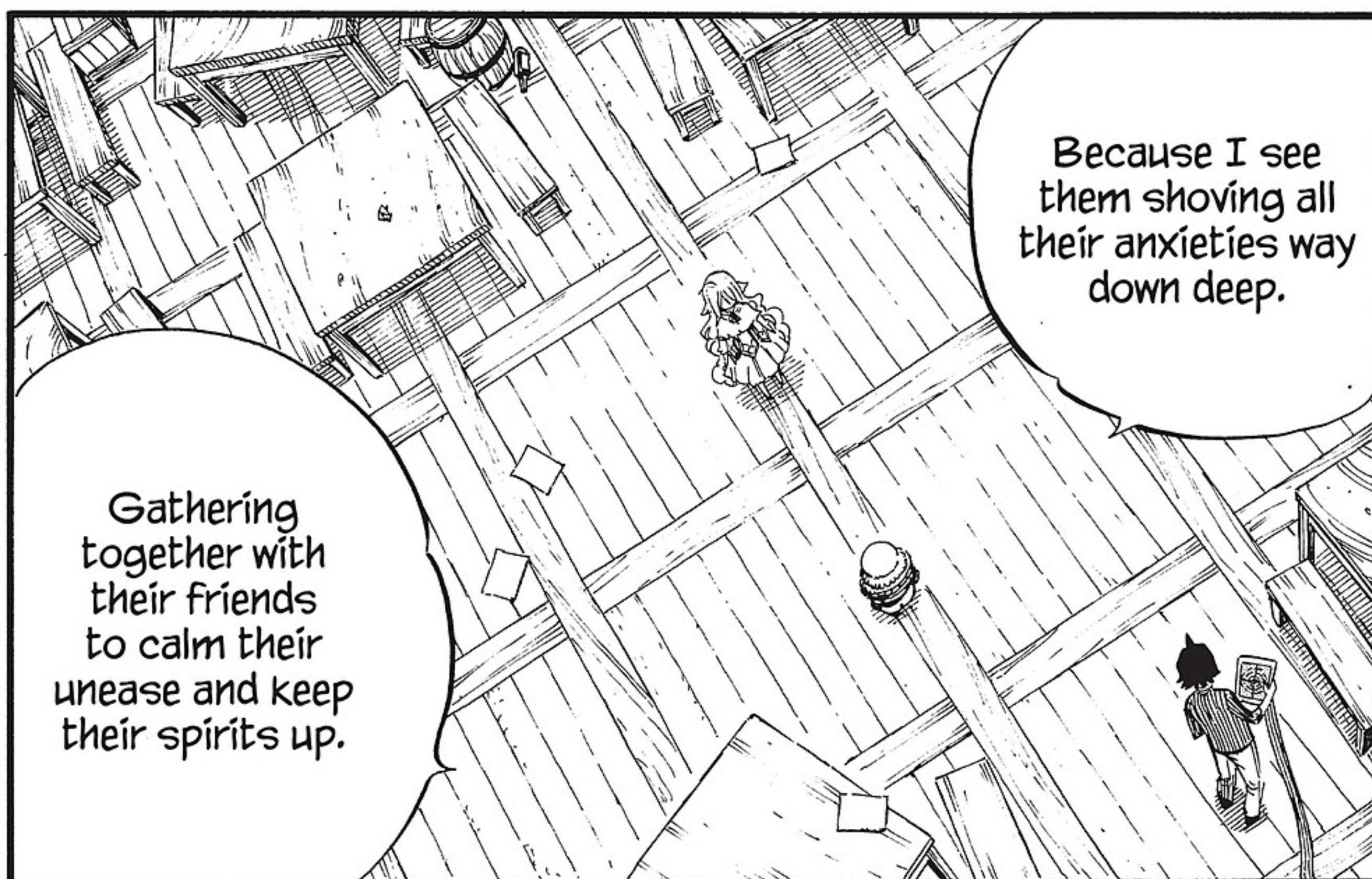
Is that
how you
see it?

?!



We have
very tough
comrades
here.

Despite the
situation,
no one is
worried.



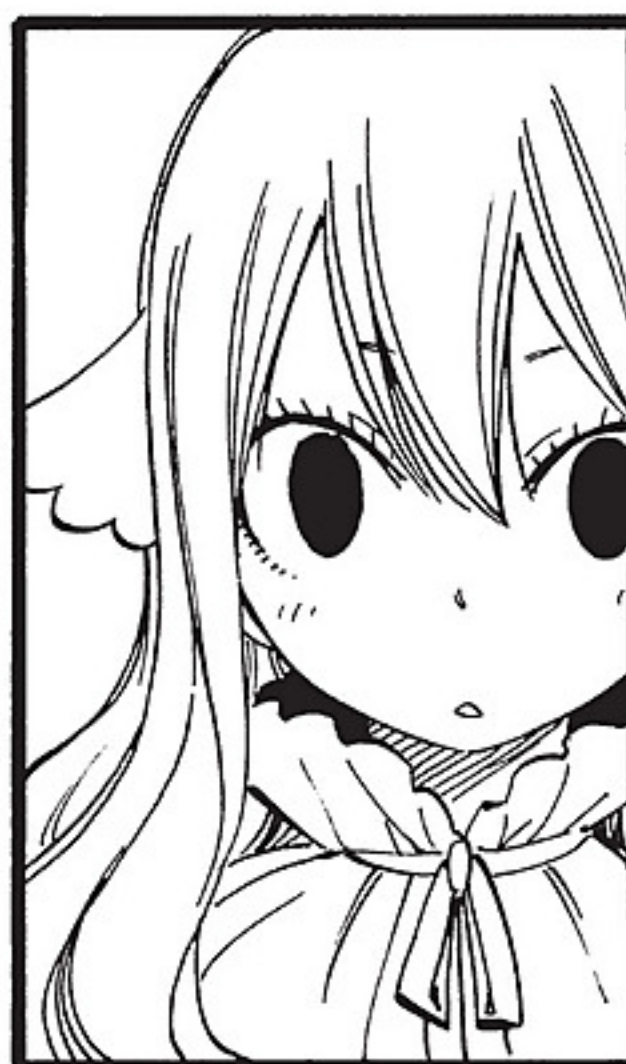
Gathering
together with
their friends
to calm their
unease and keep
their spirits up.

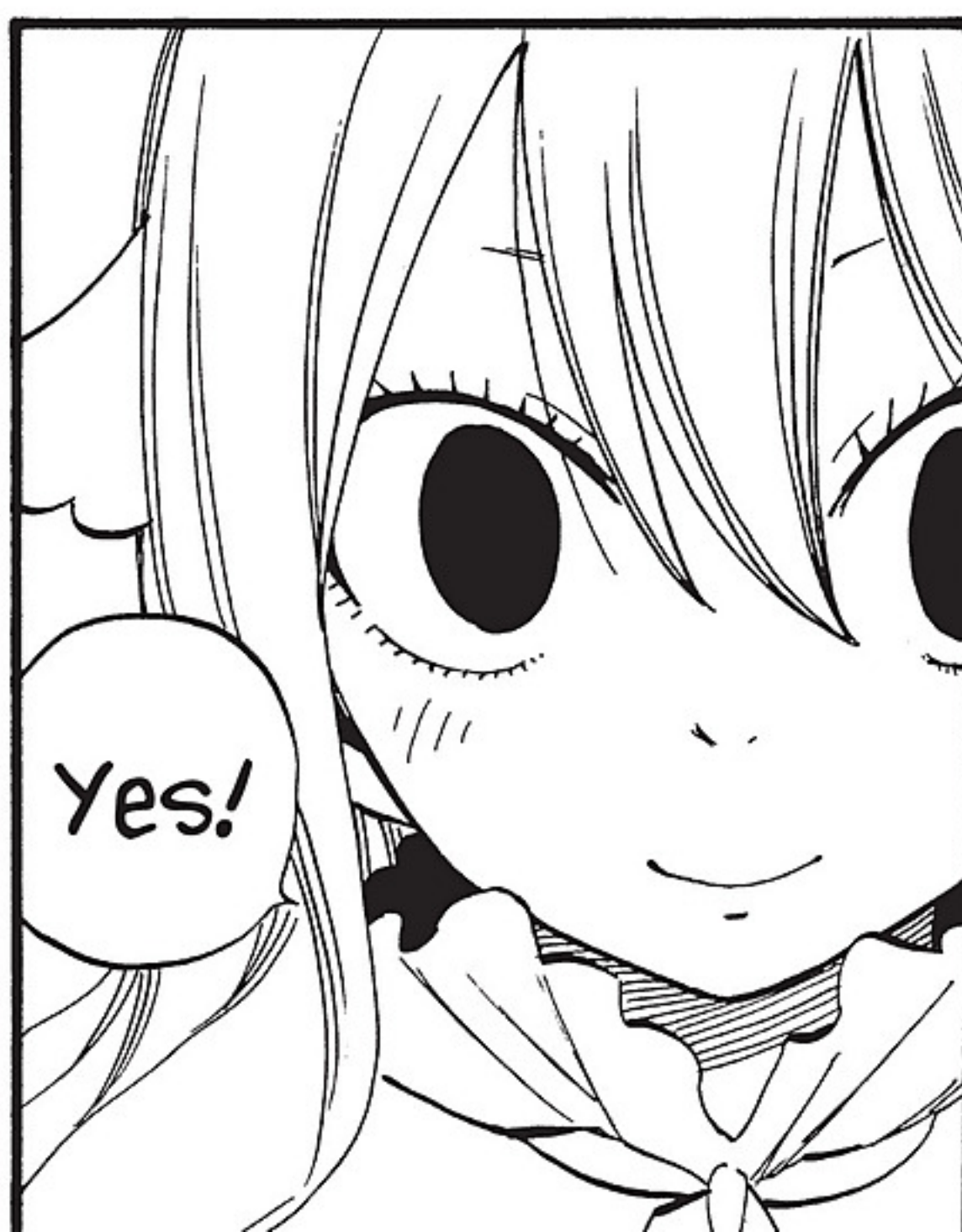
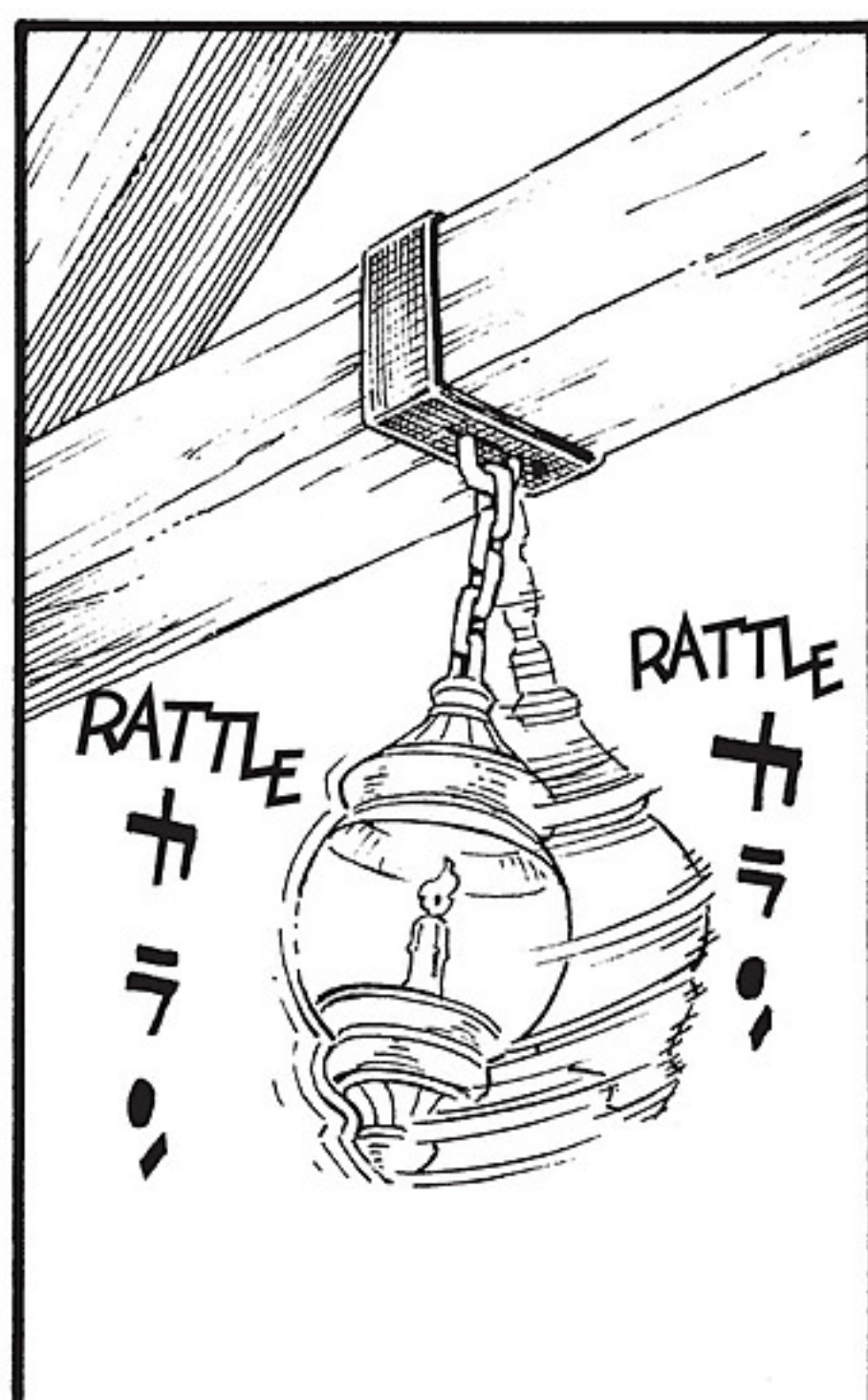
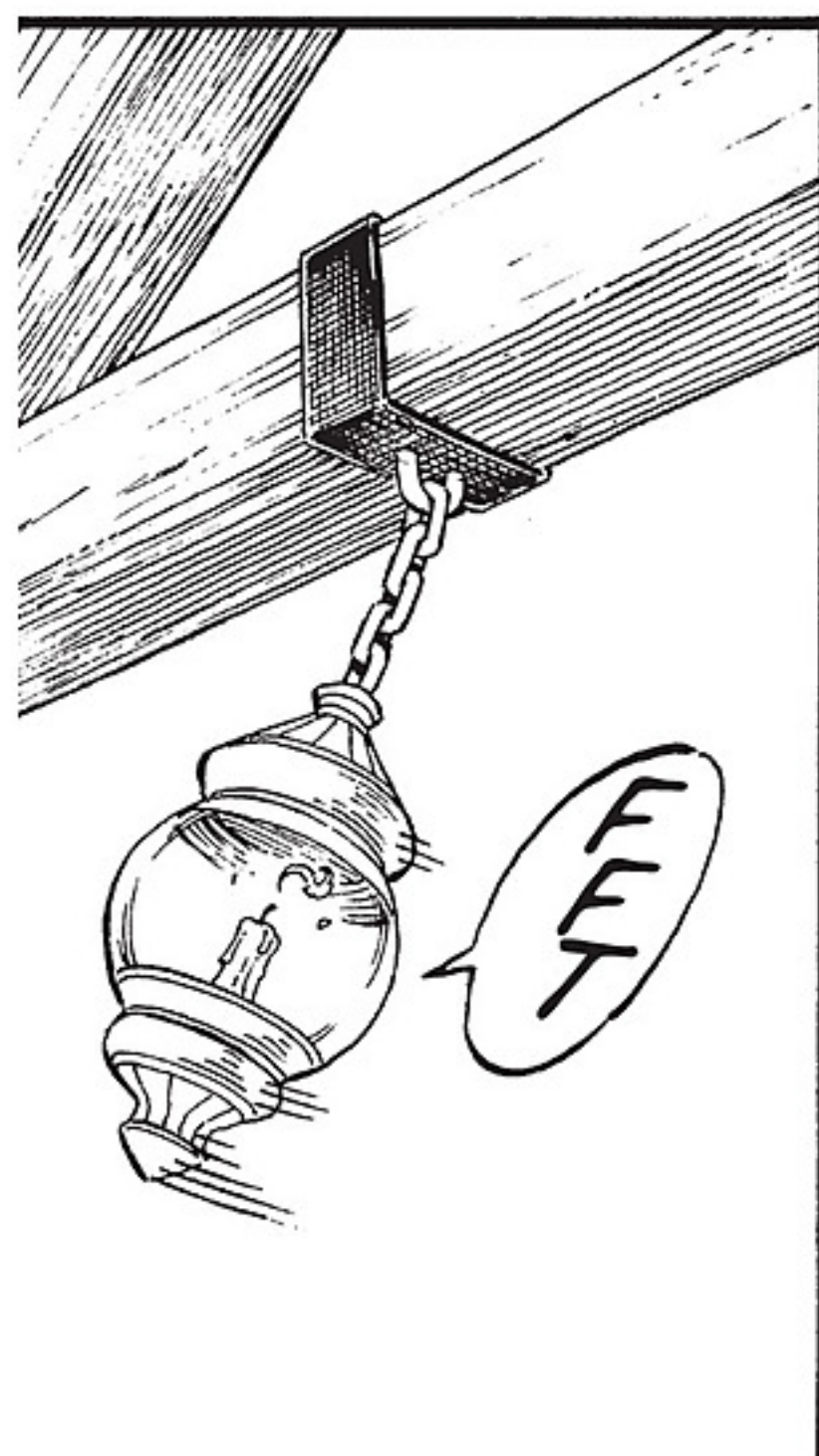
Because I see
them shoving all
their anxieties way
down deep.

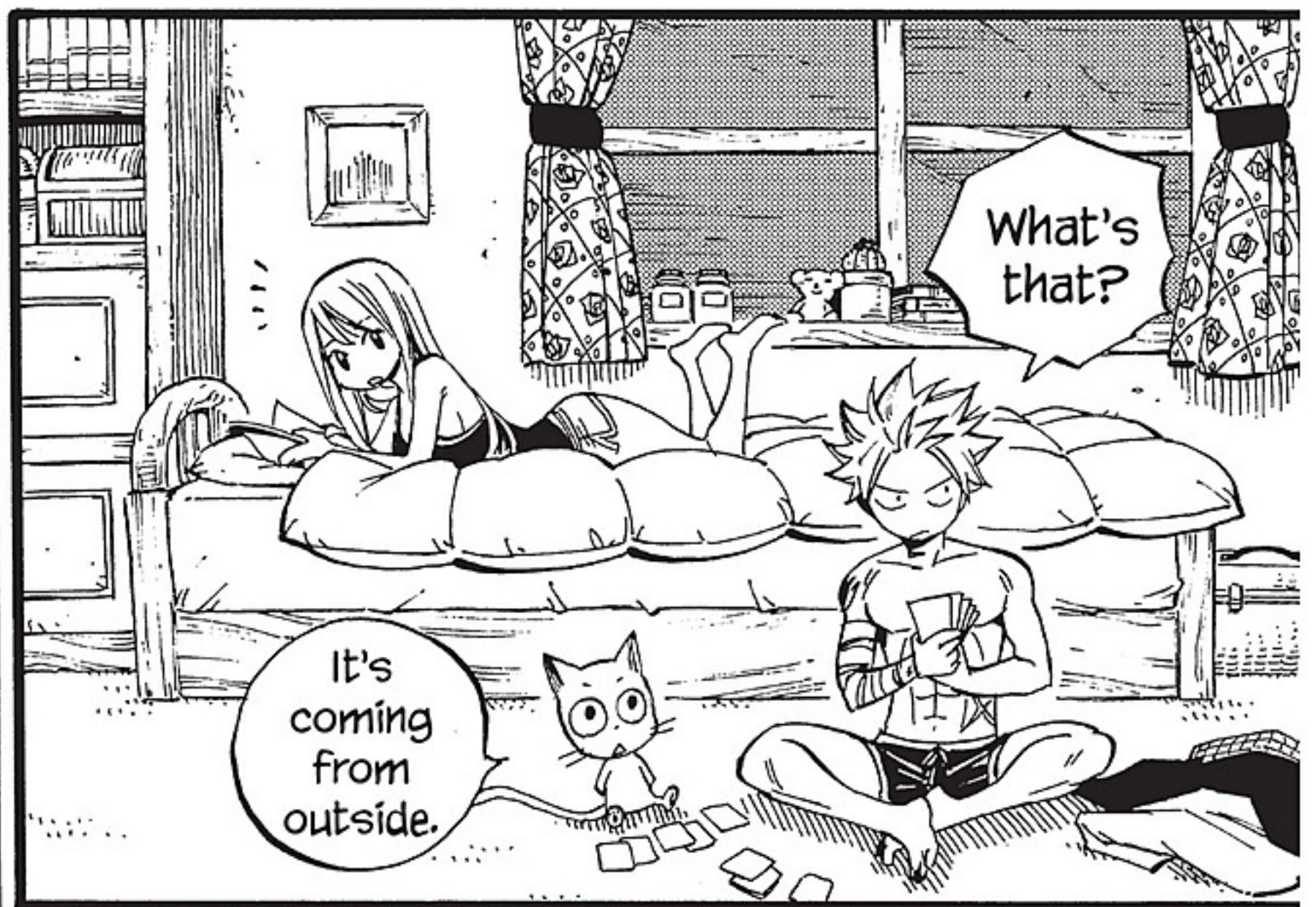
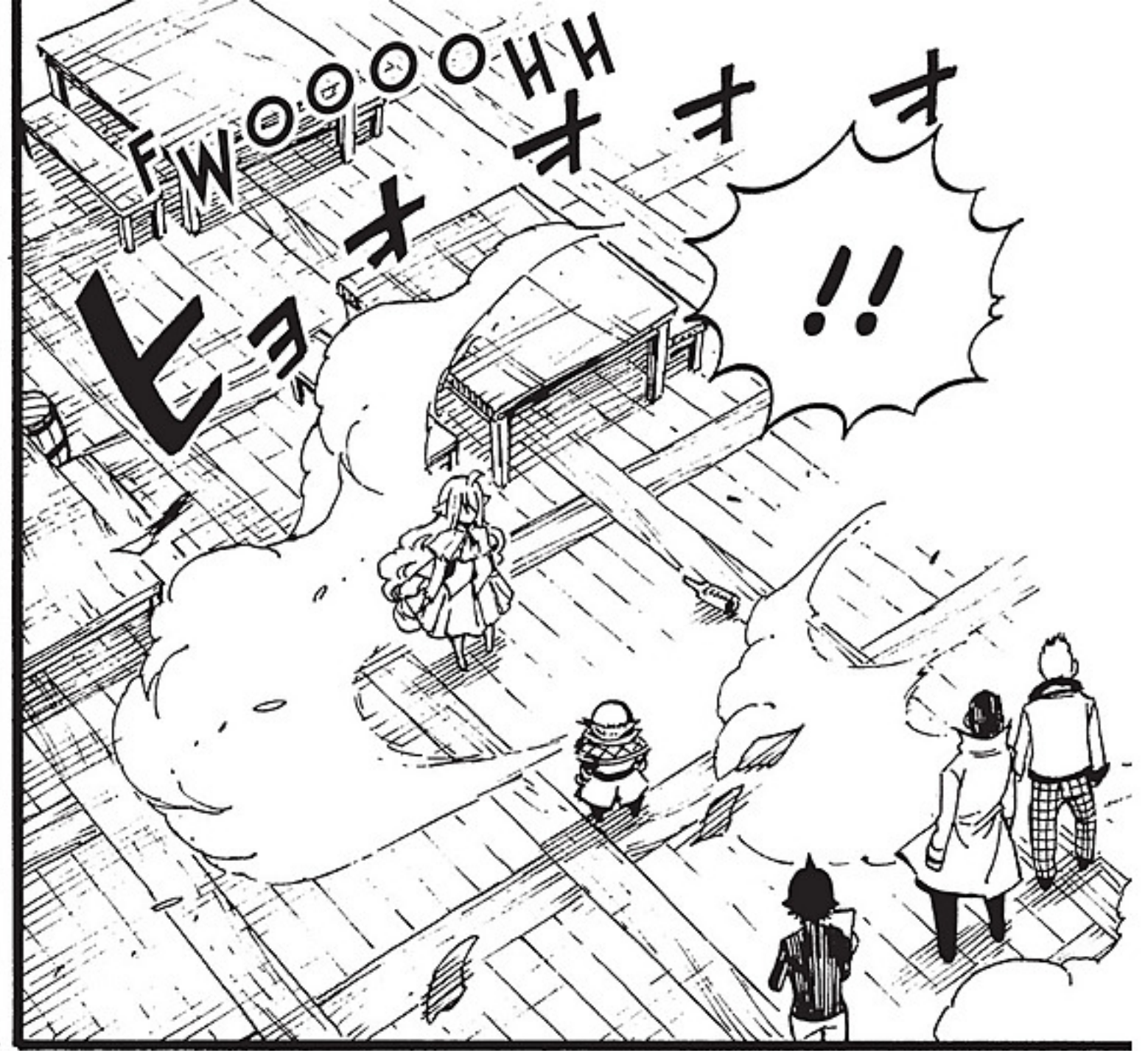


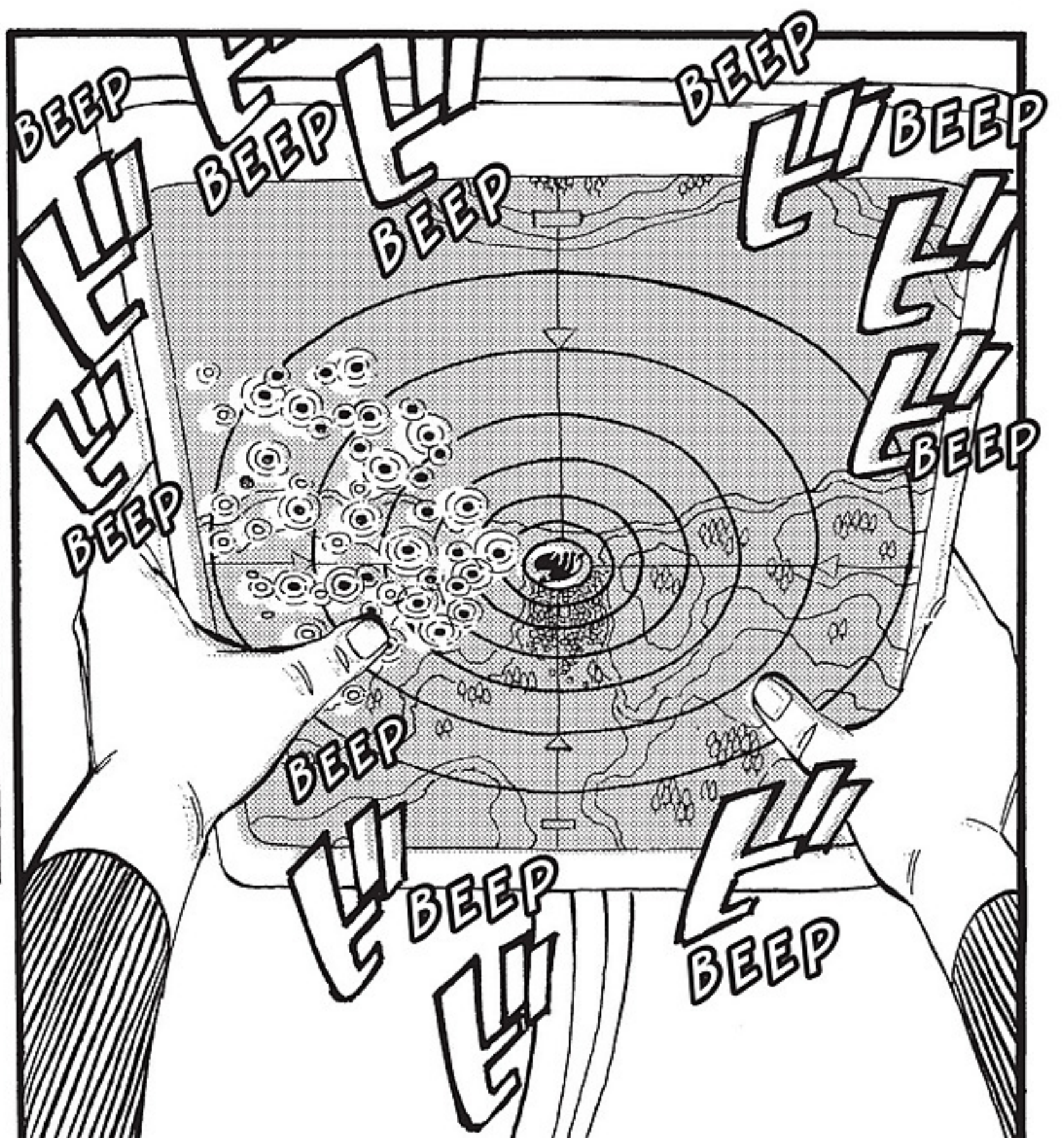
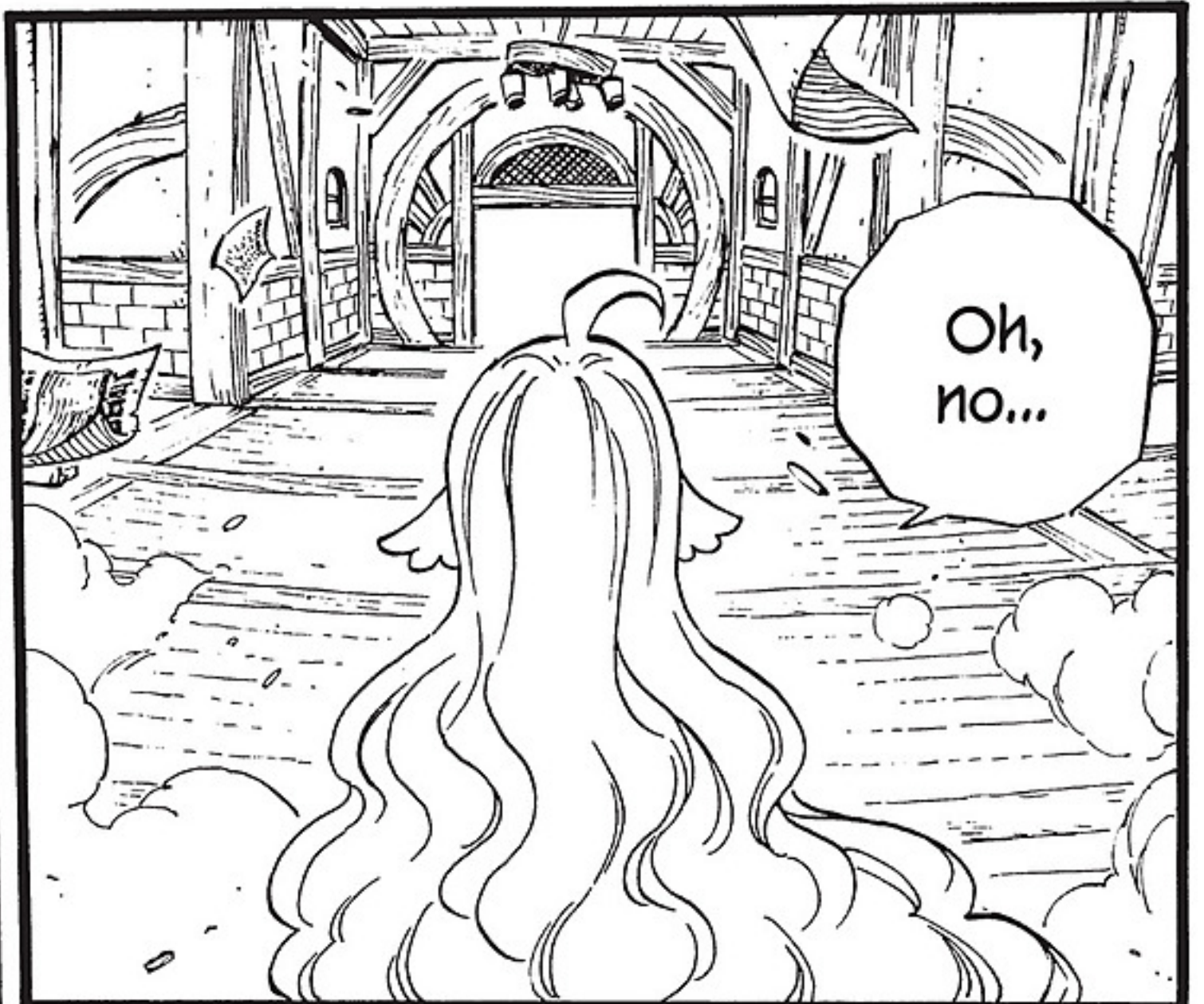
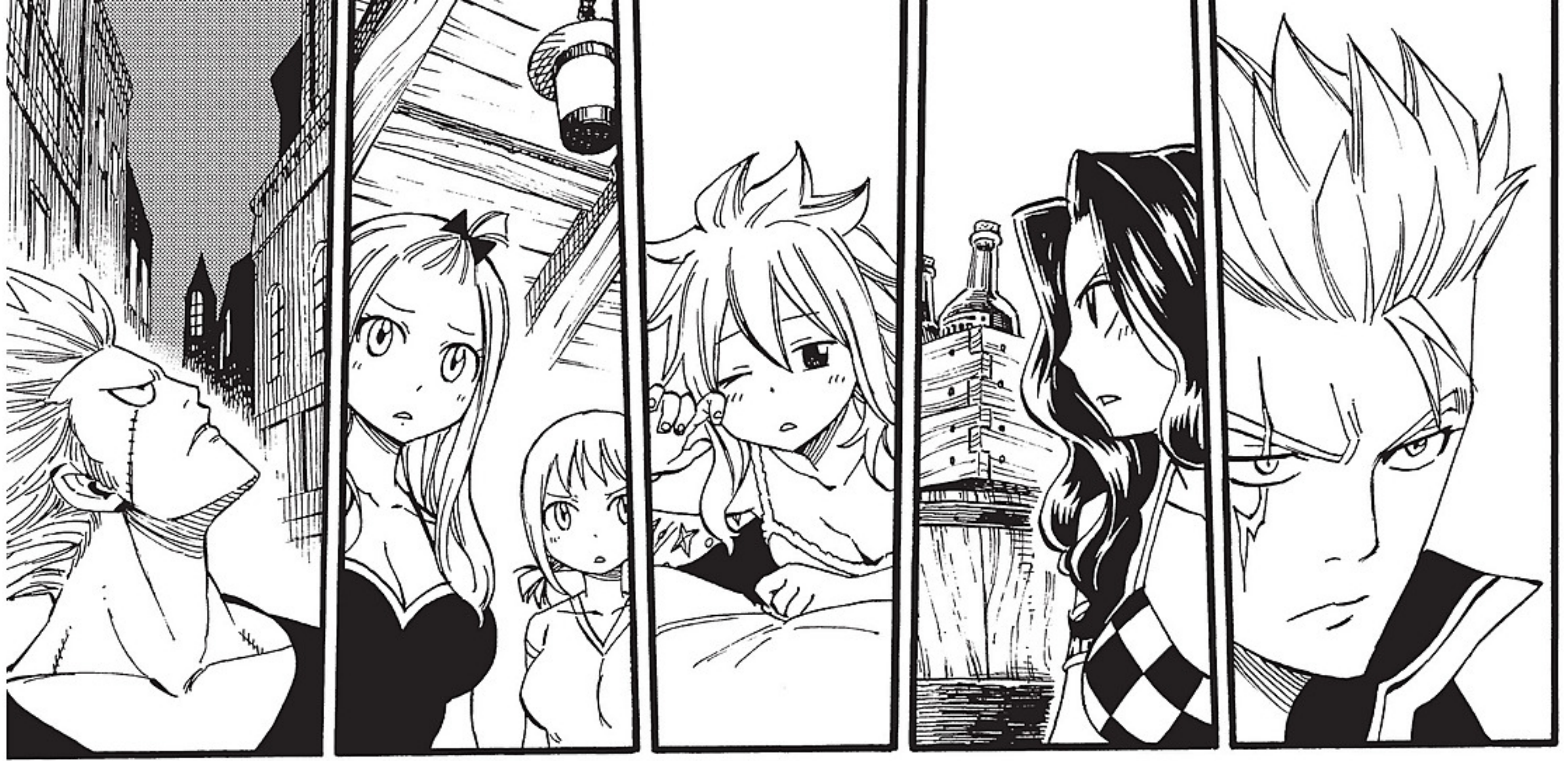
But
that is by no
means a bad
thing.

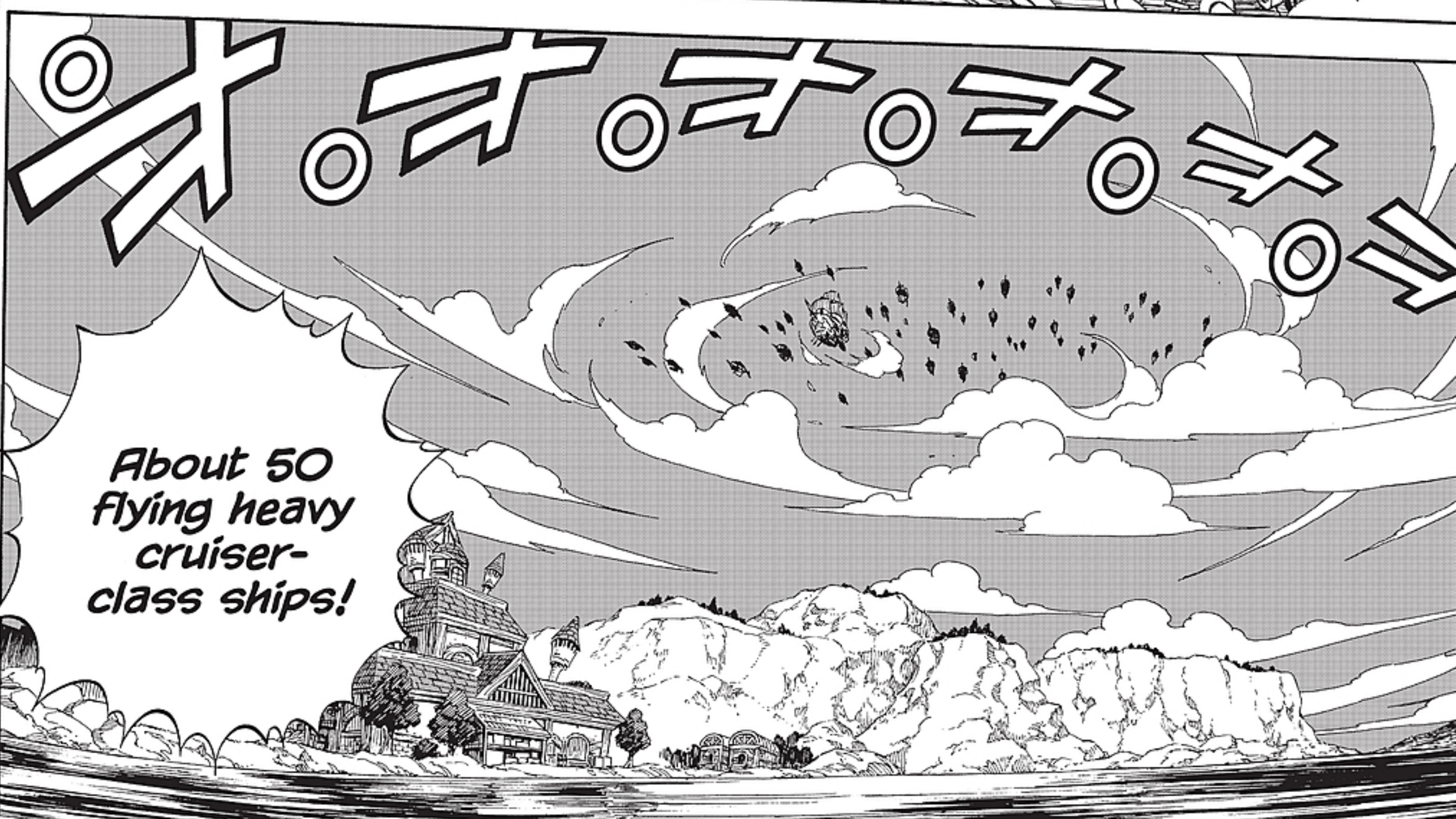
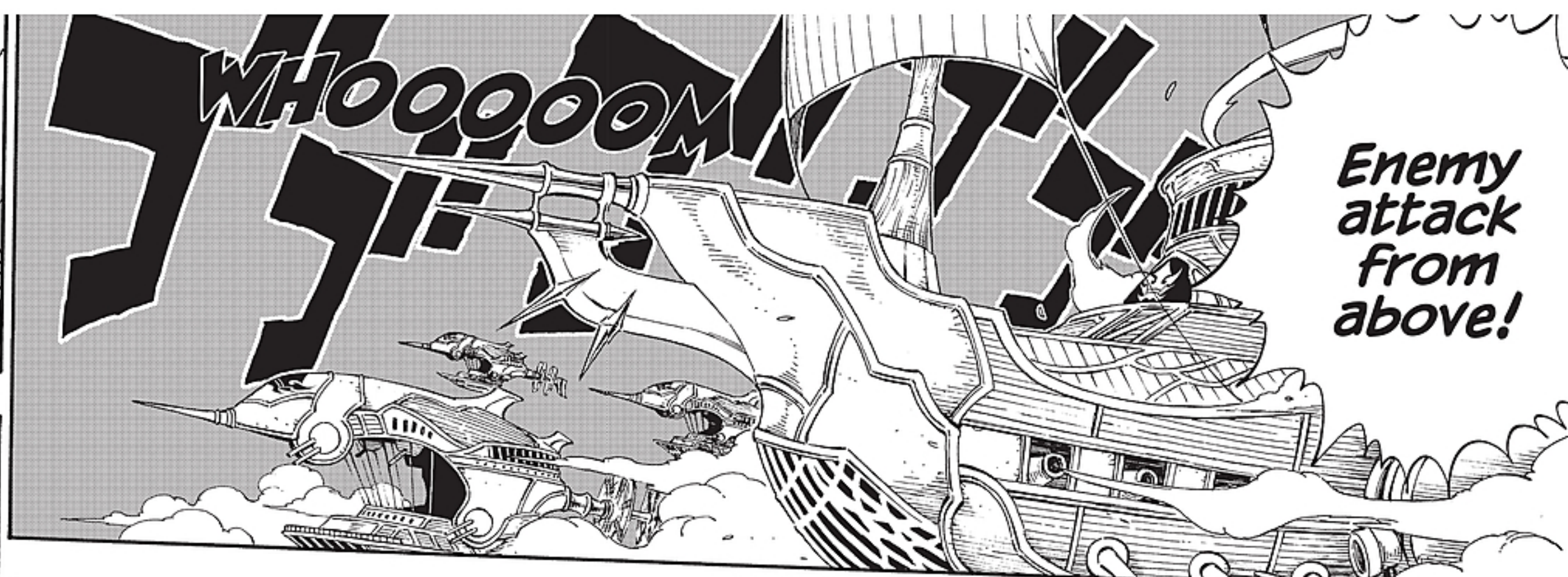
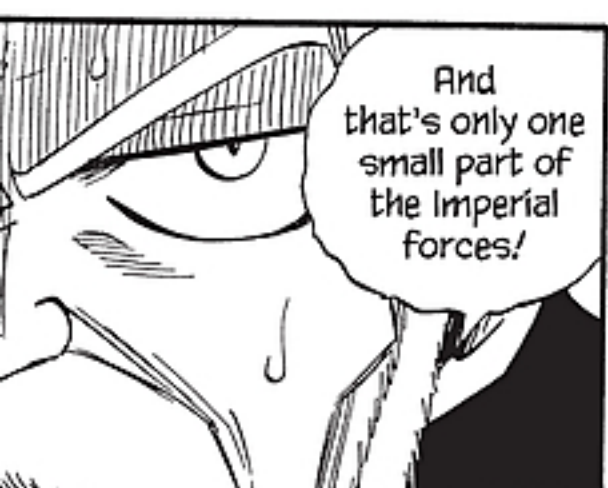
When a
father shows
fear, it's only
natural for the
children to feel
fear, too.

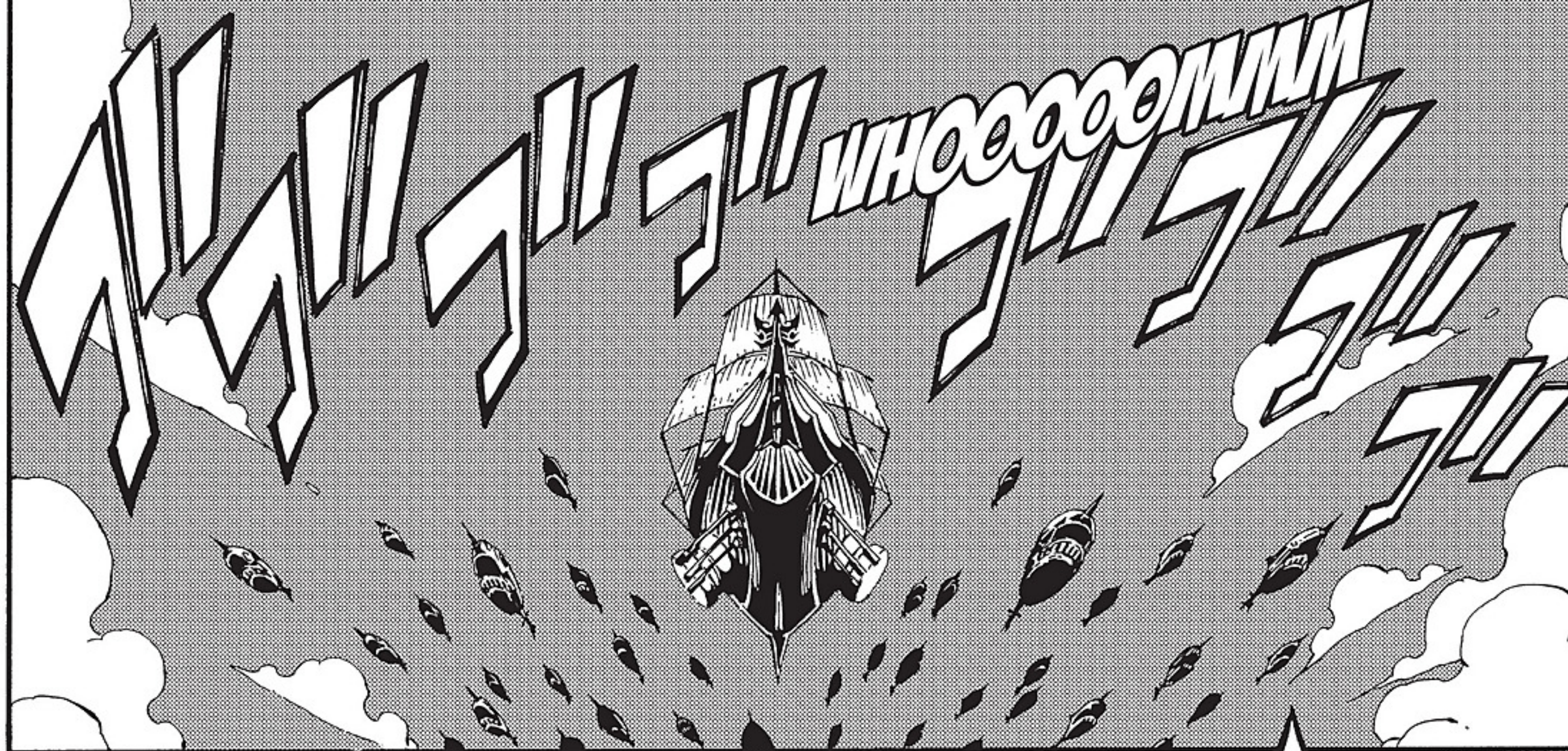








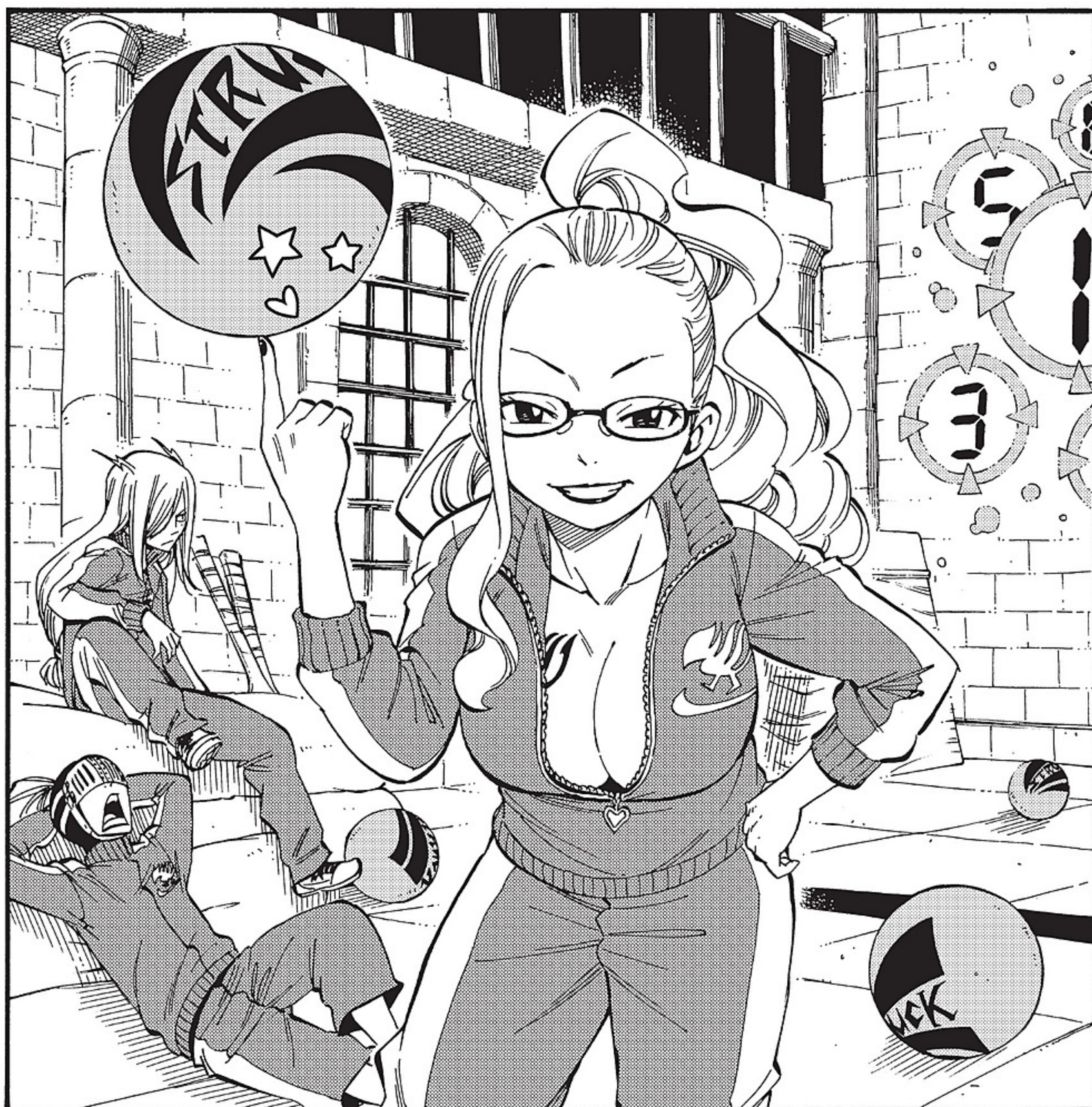


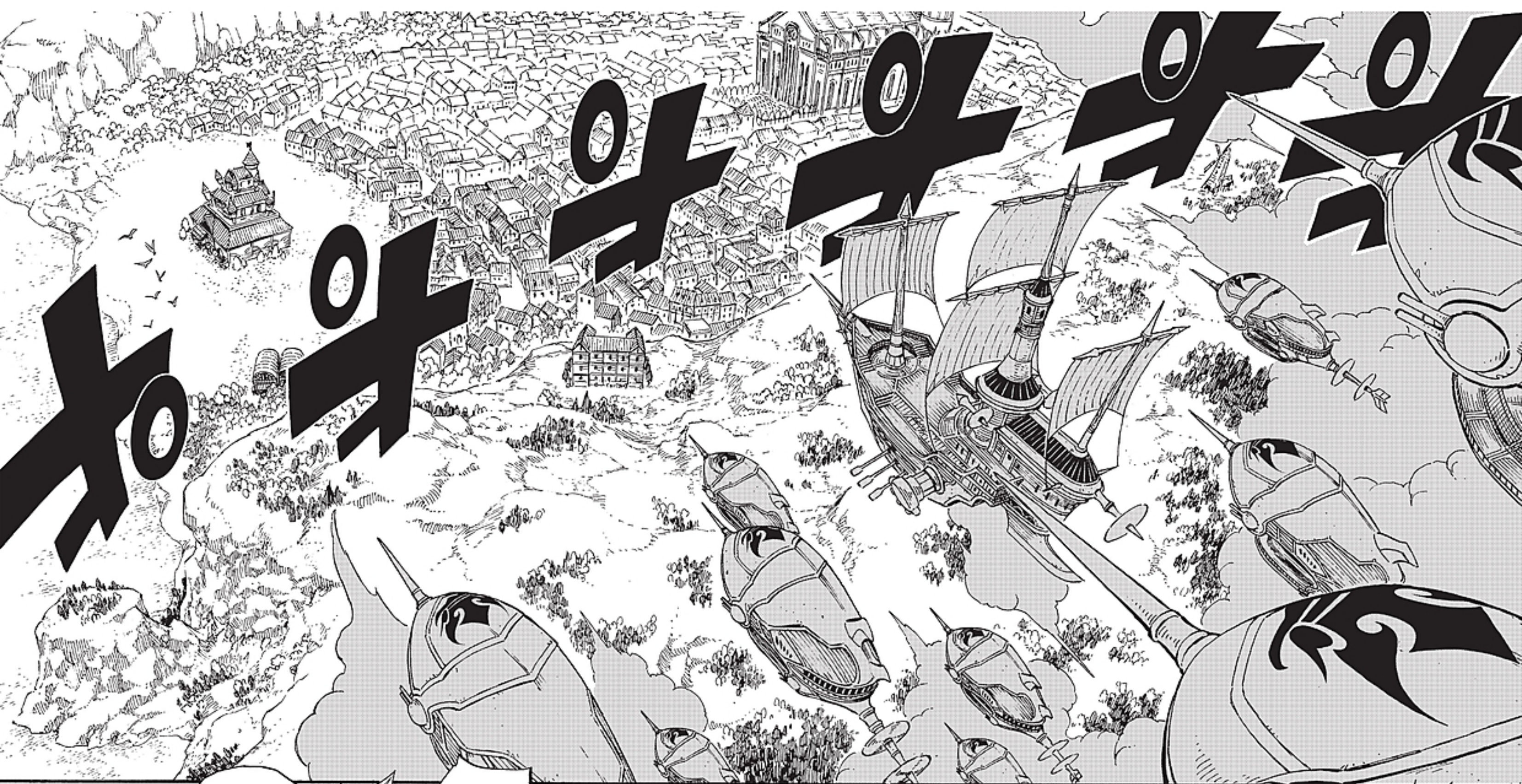


FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 454: Dragon Flight Force and Osprey Force

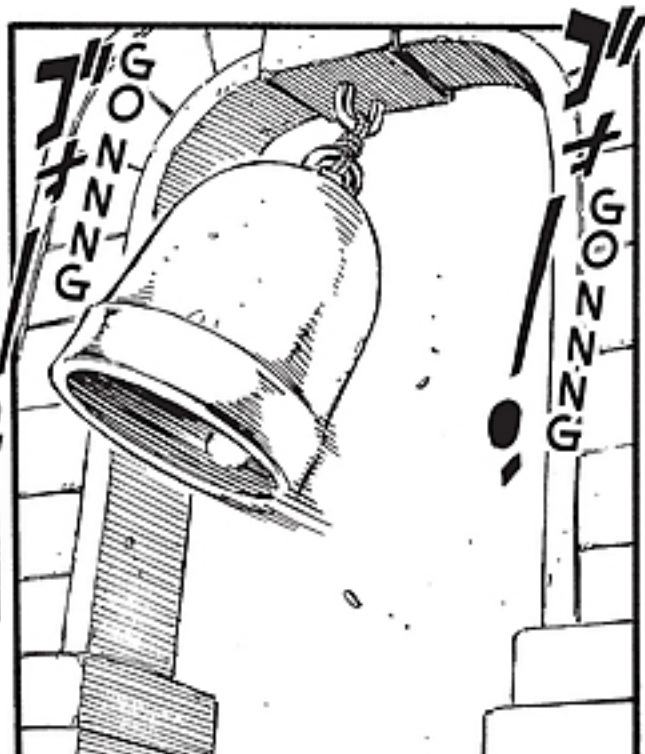




We're
not ready
yet!

From the
sky?!

The
enemy!



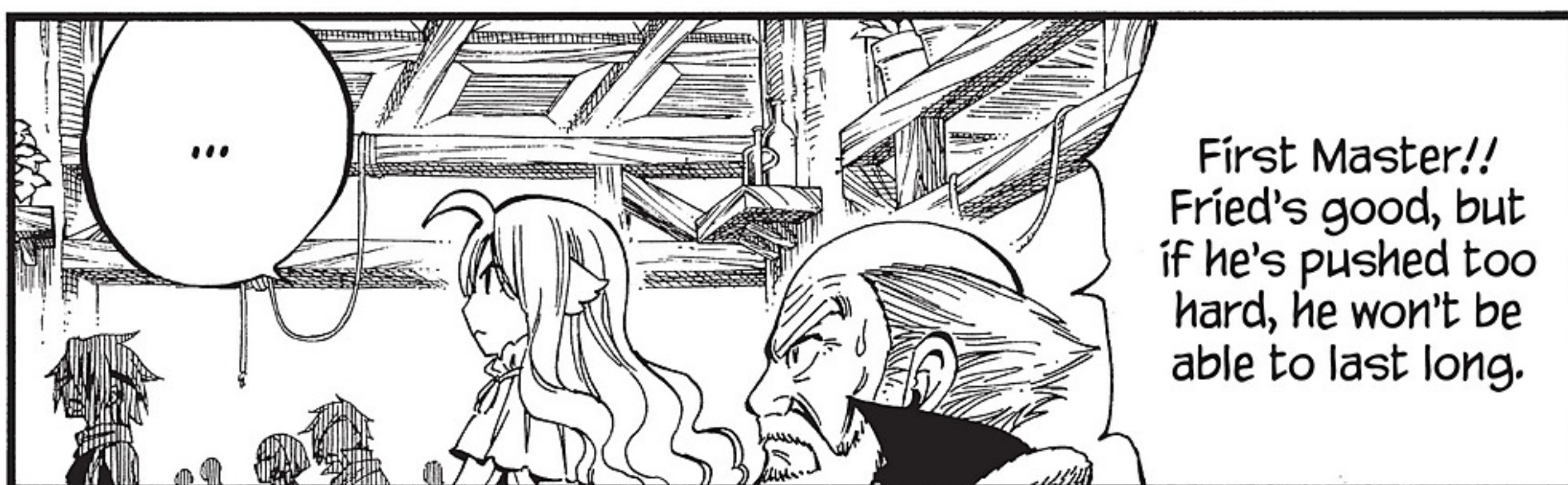
We're under
attack!
Approximately
50 heavy
cruiser-class
warships in
the western
sky!!

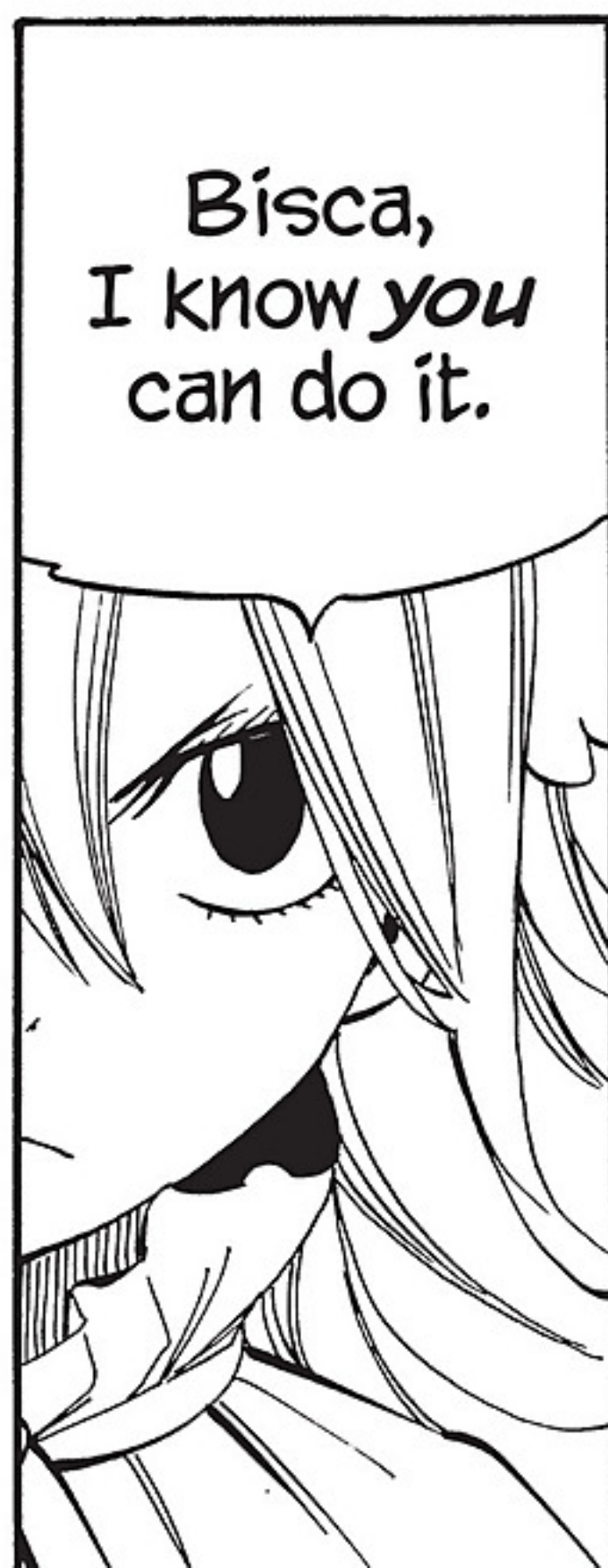


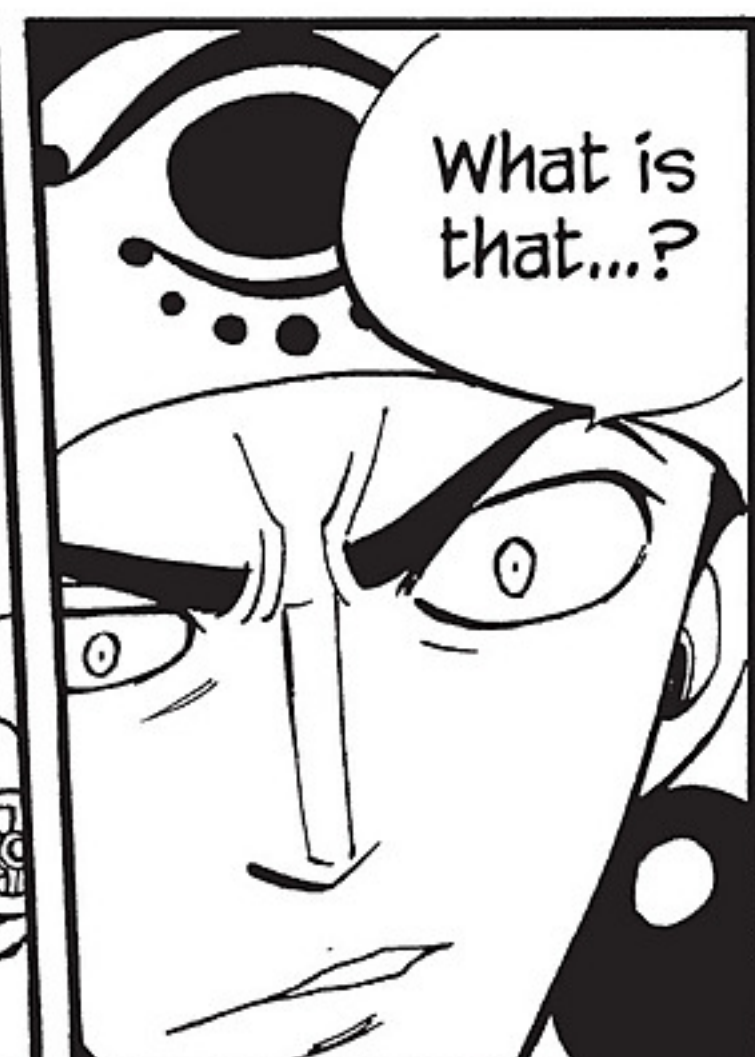
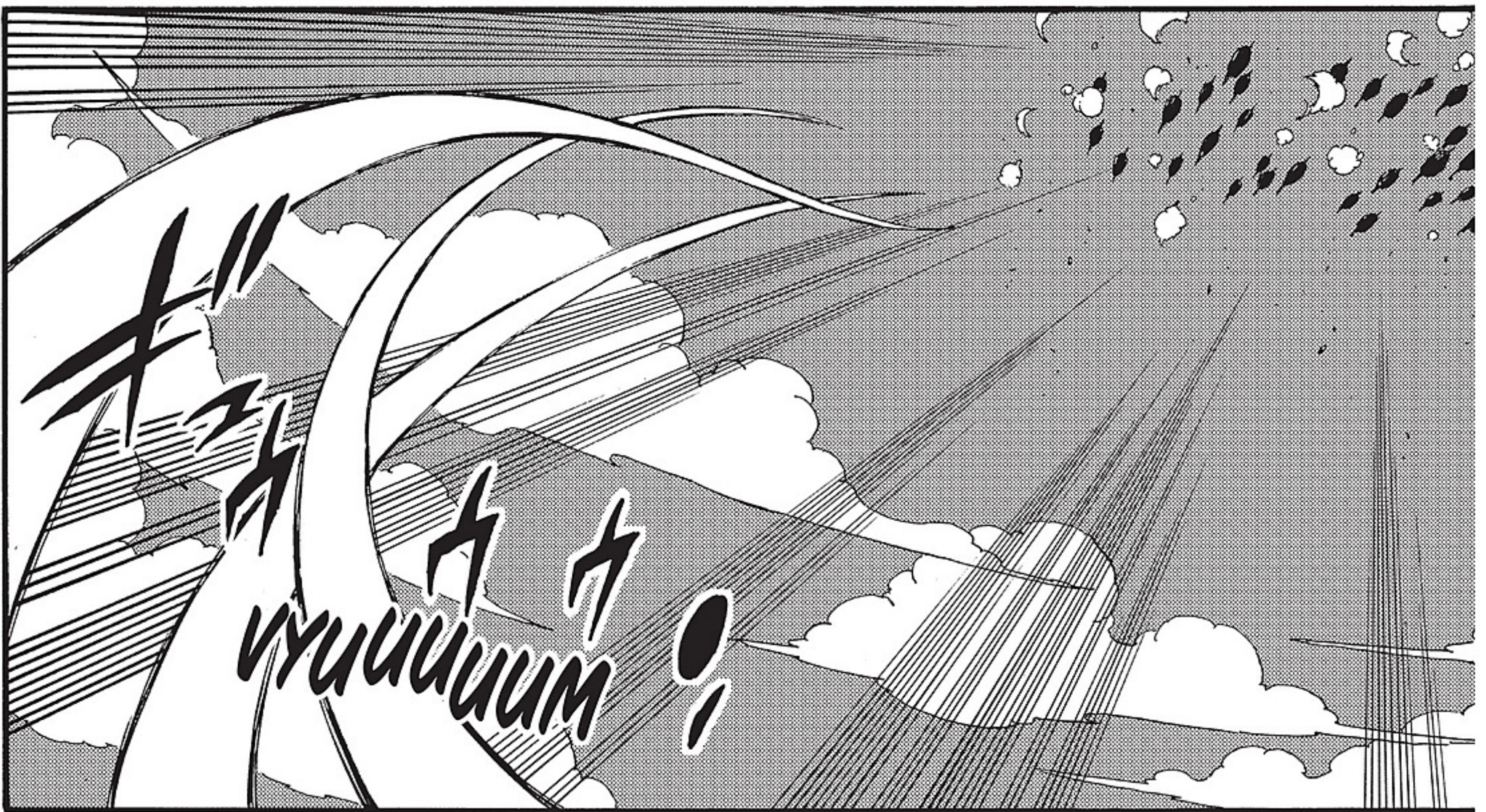
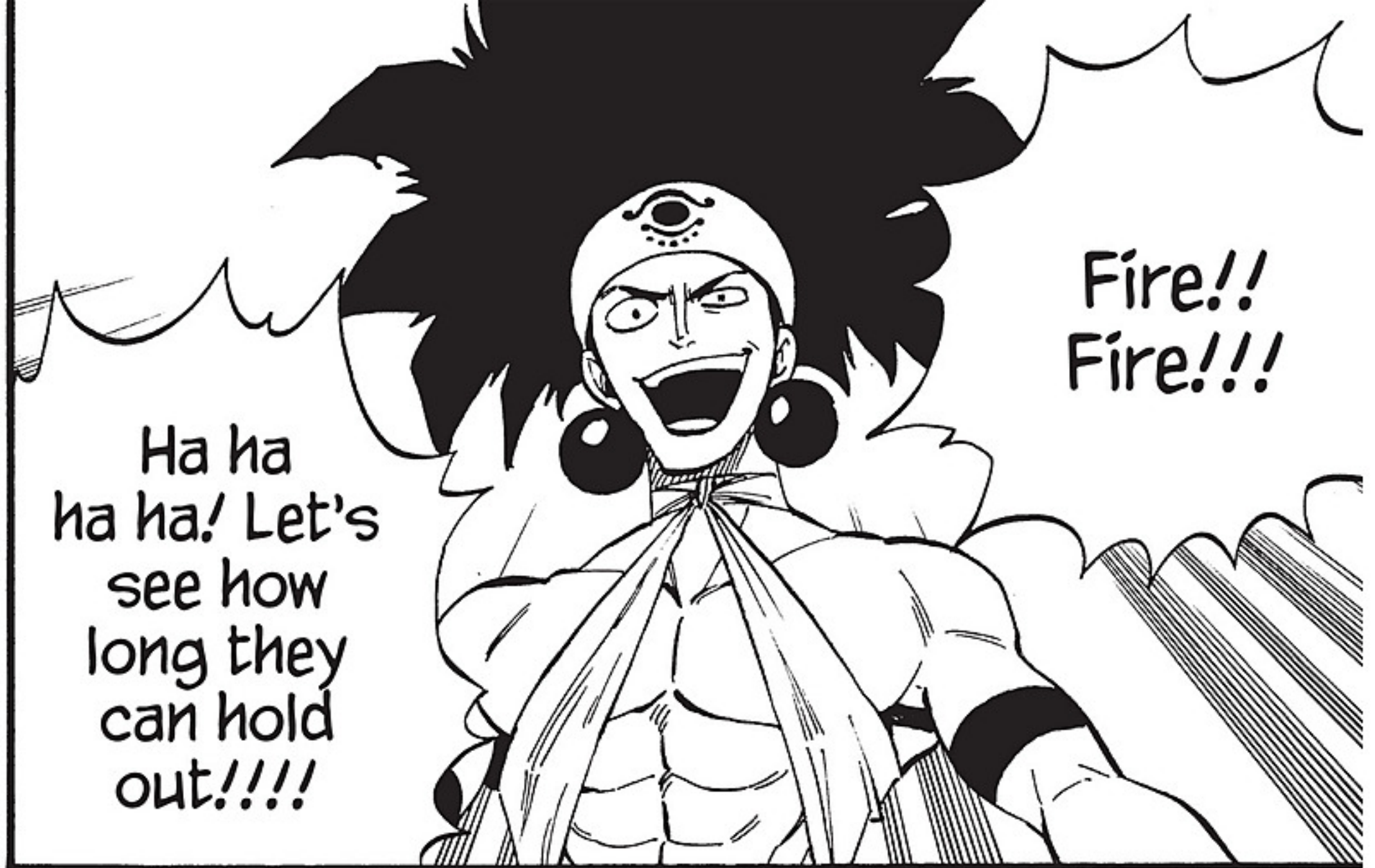
Ring
the bell!

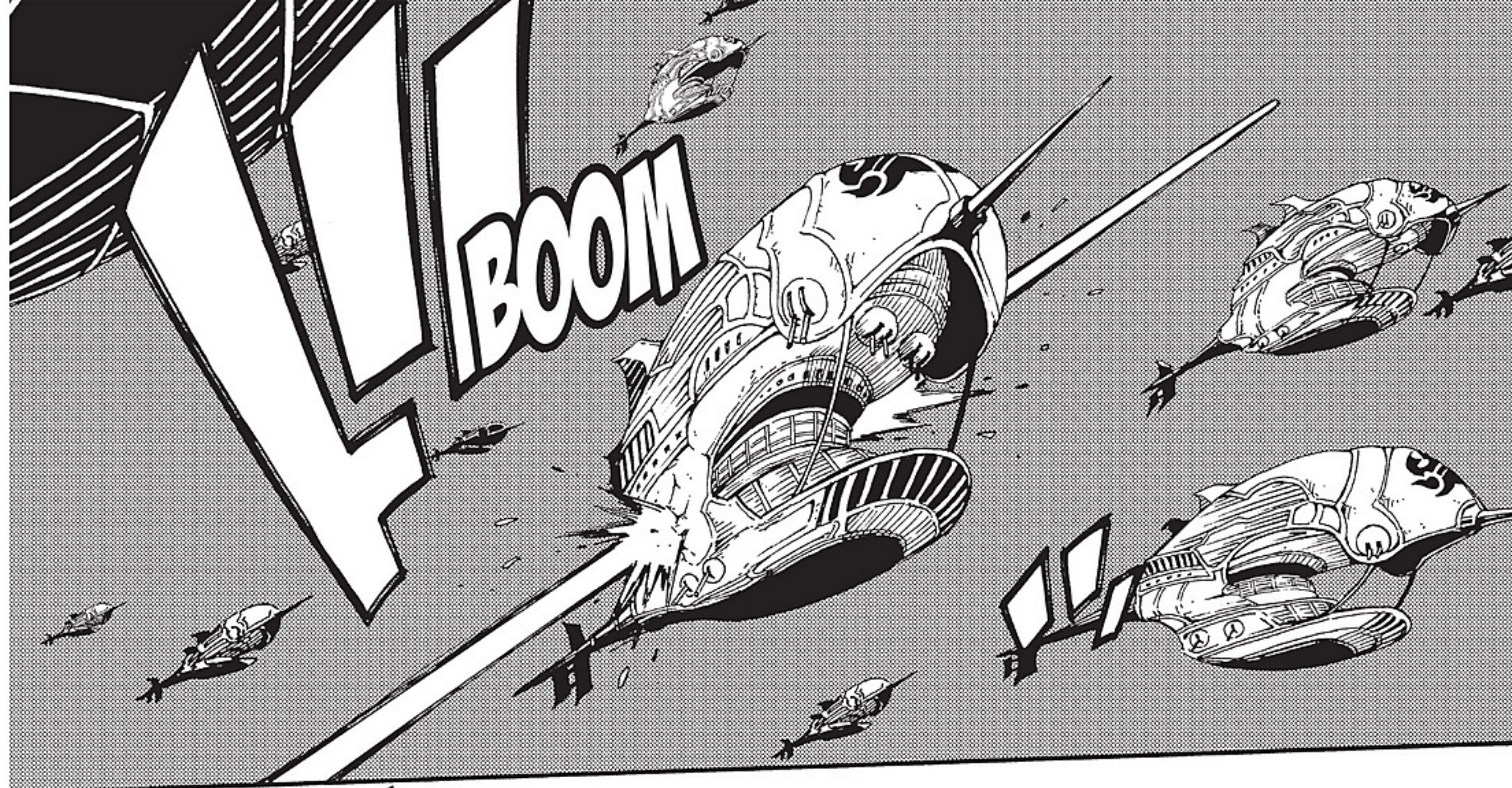




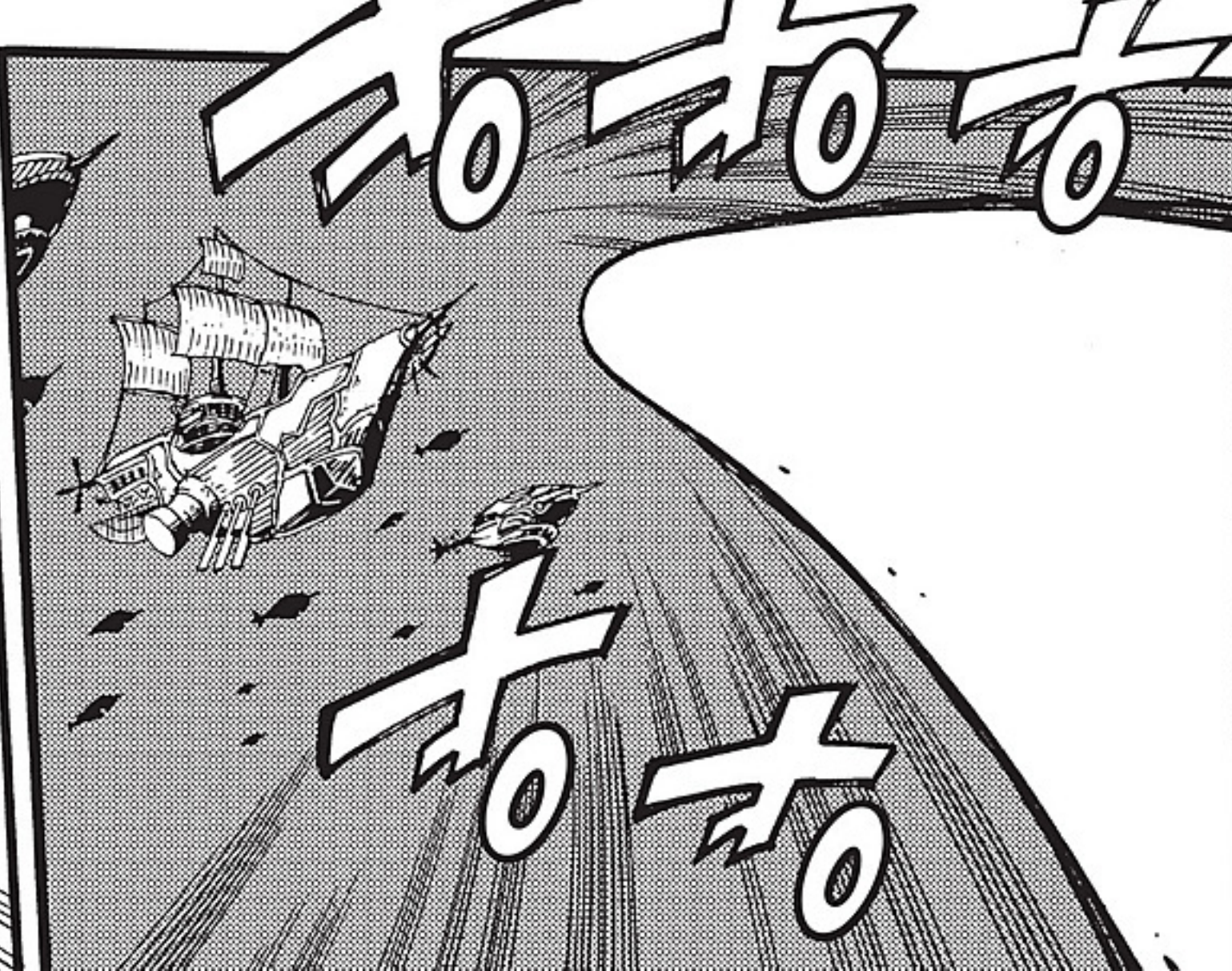
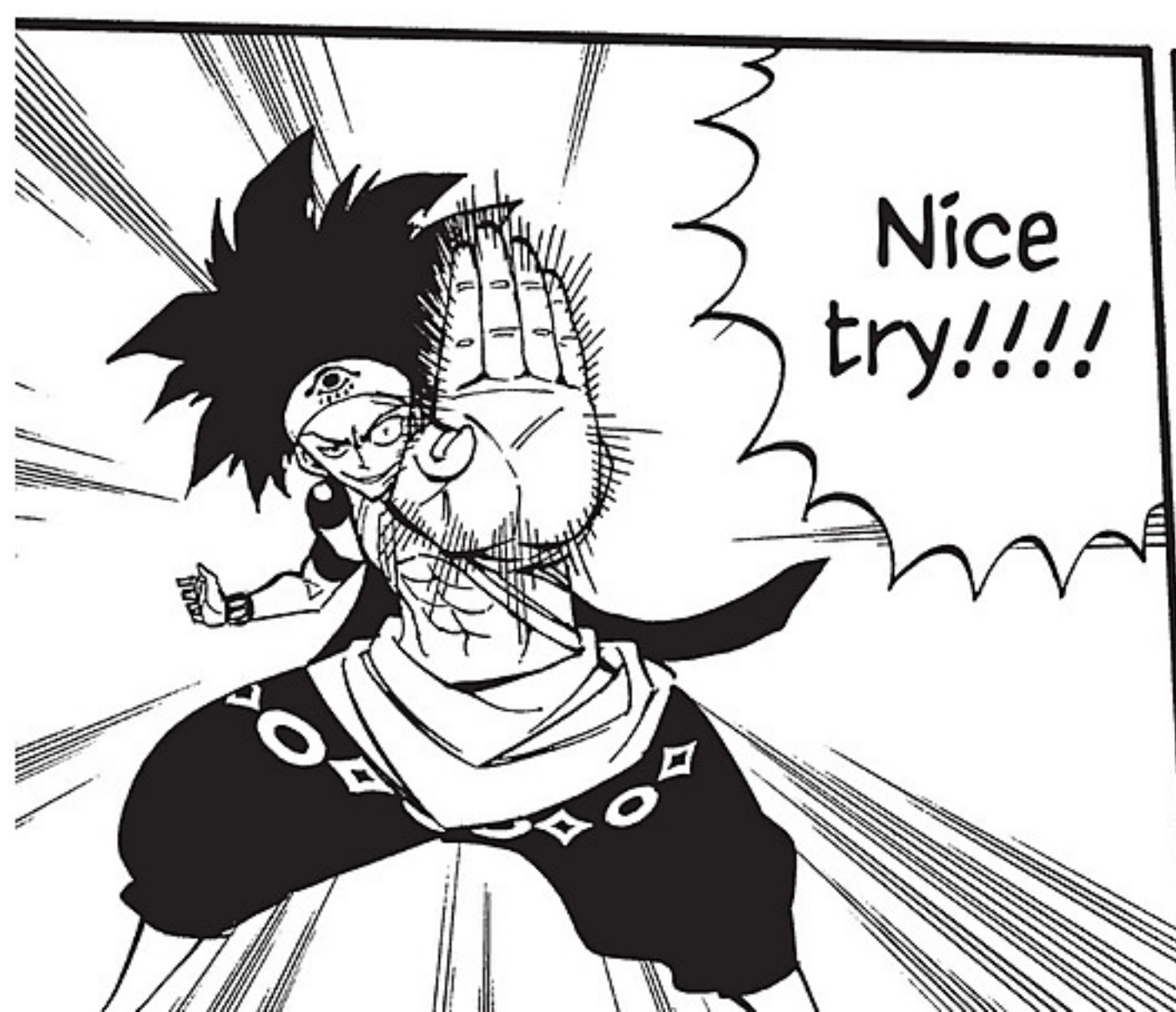
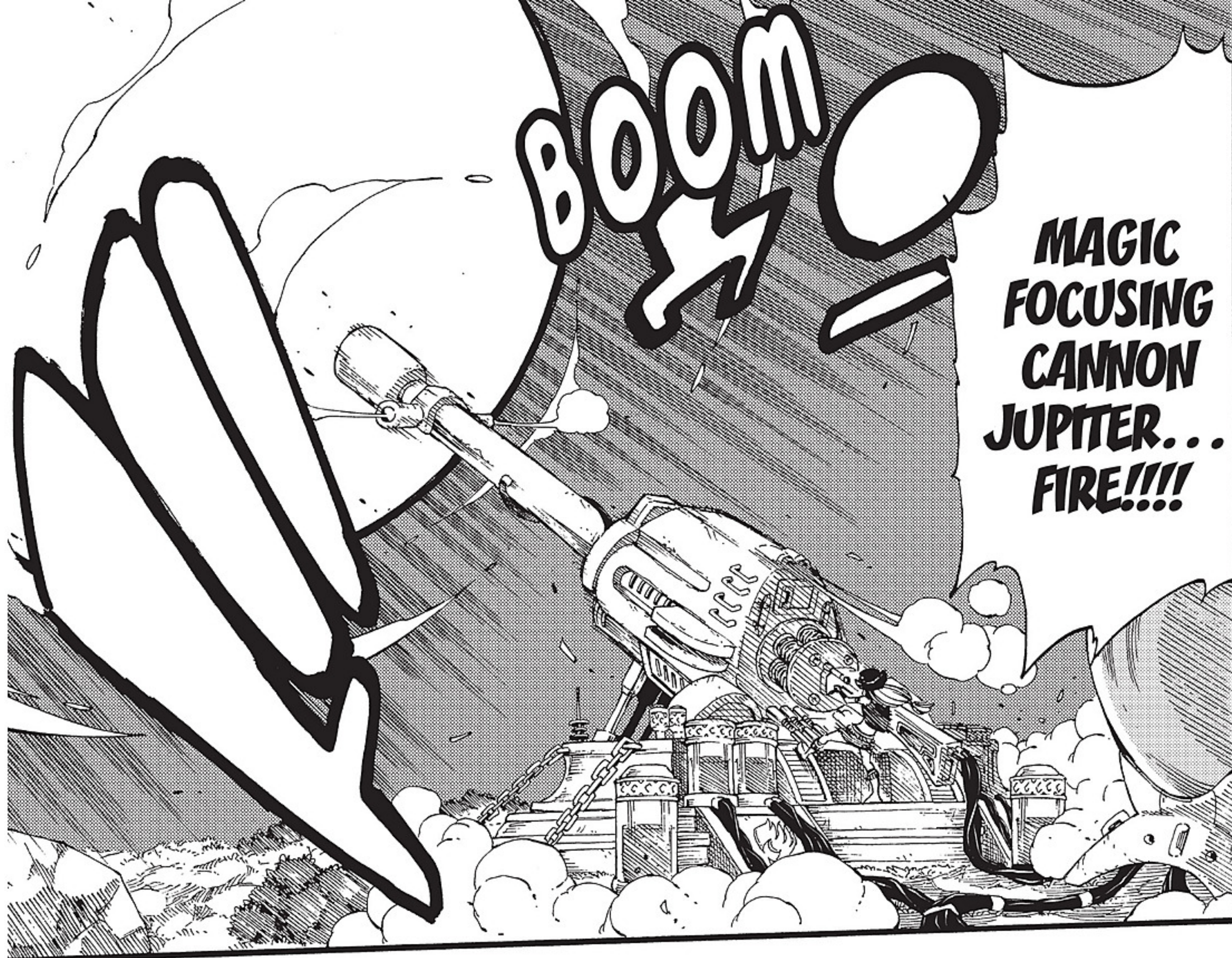


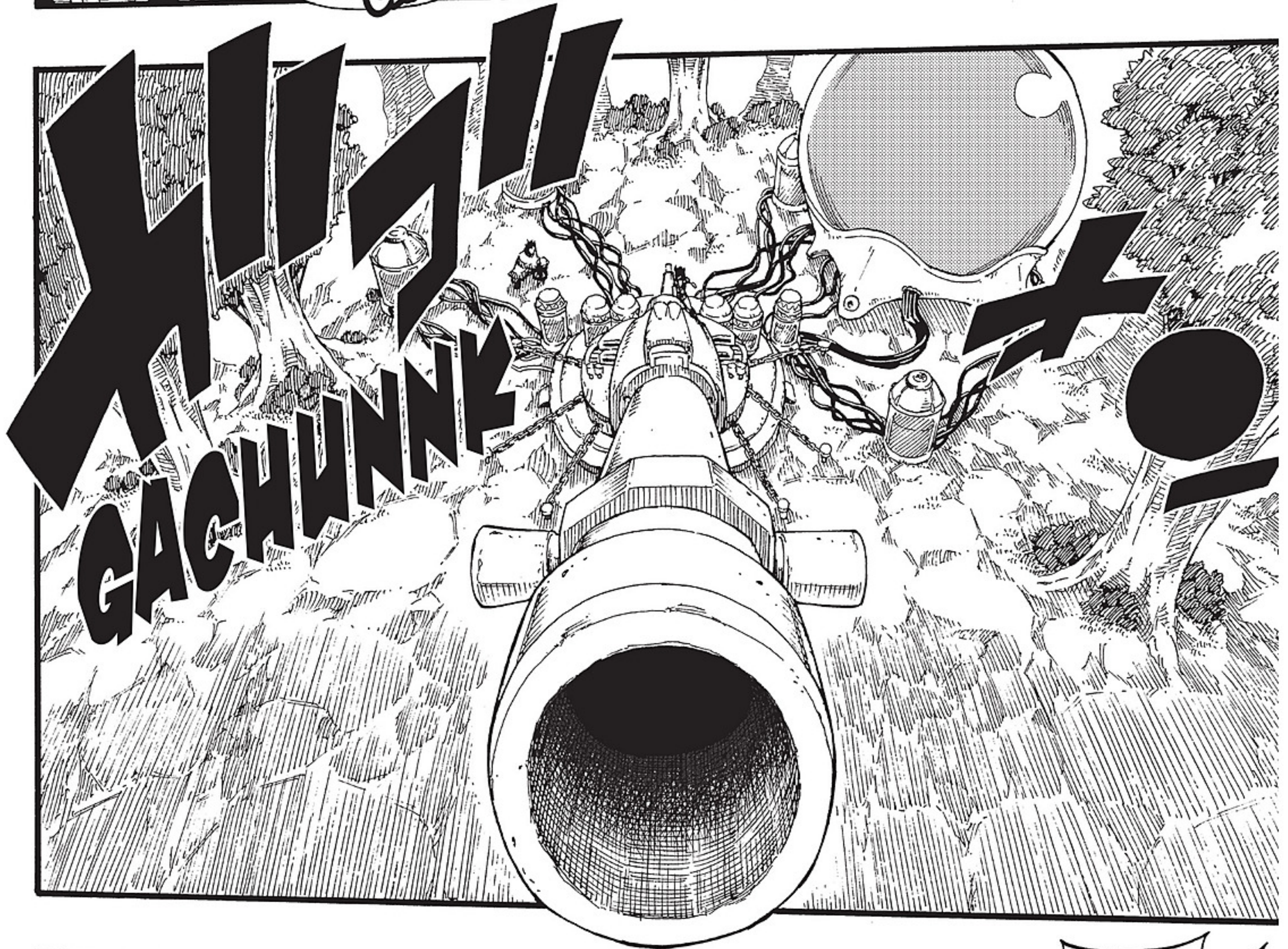
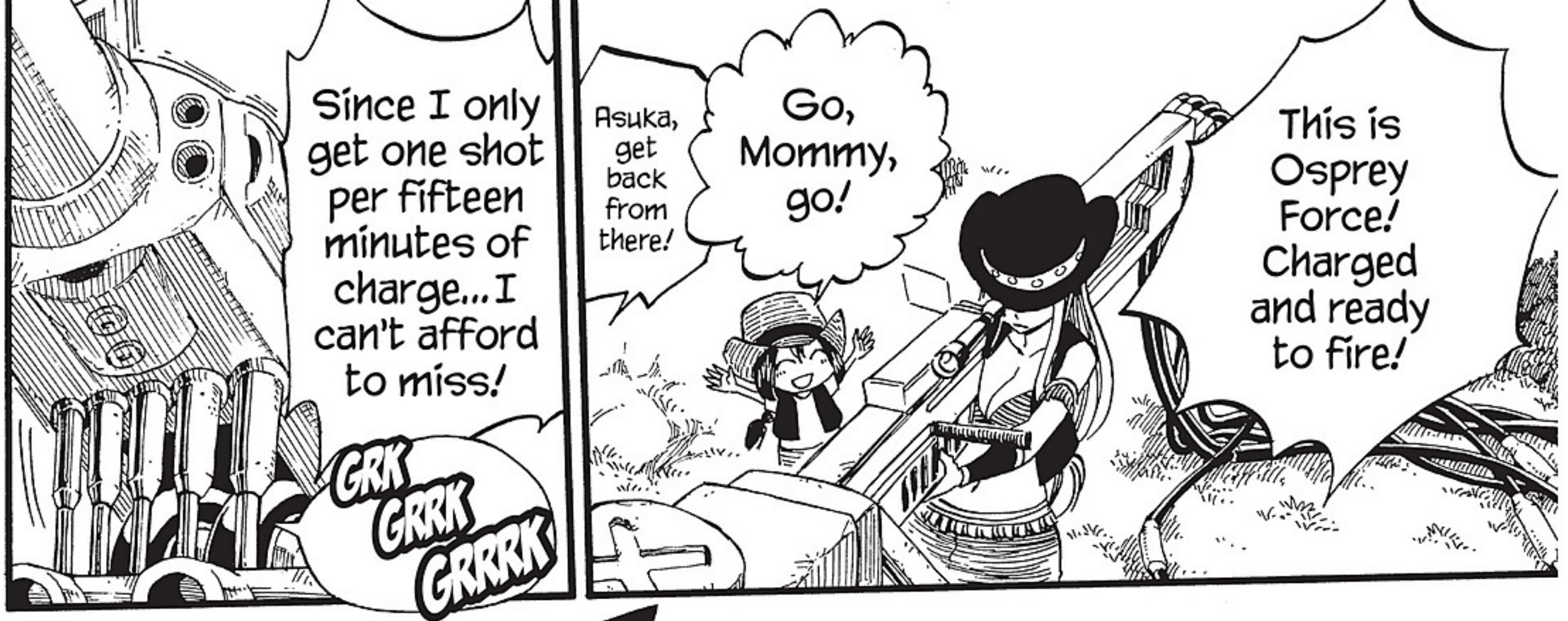


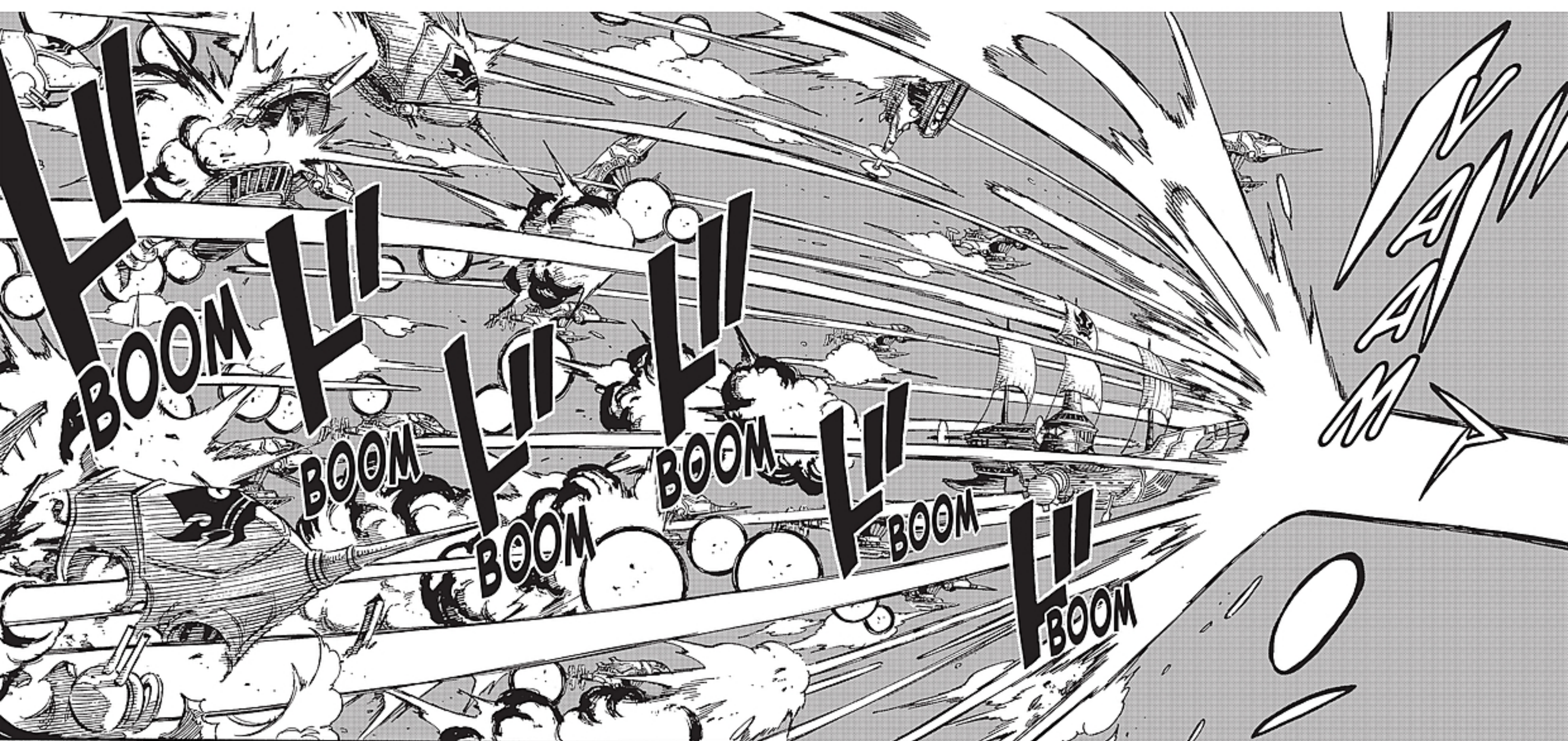


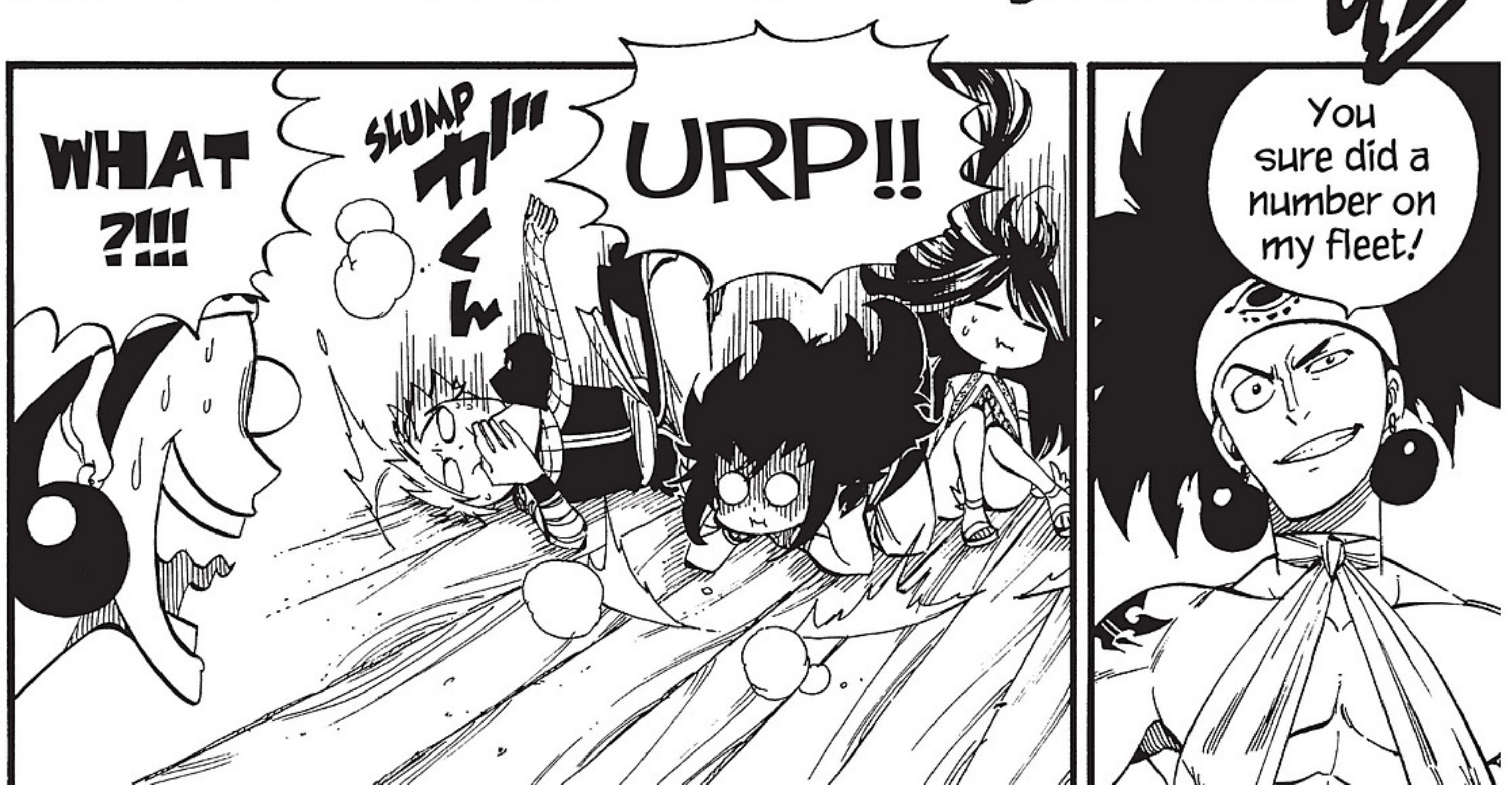
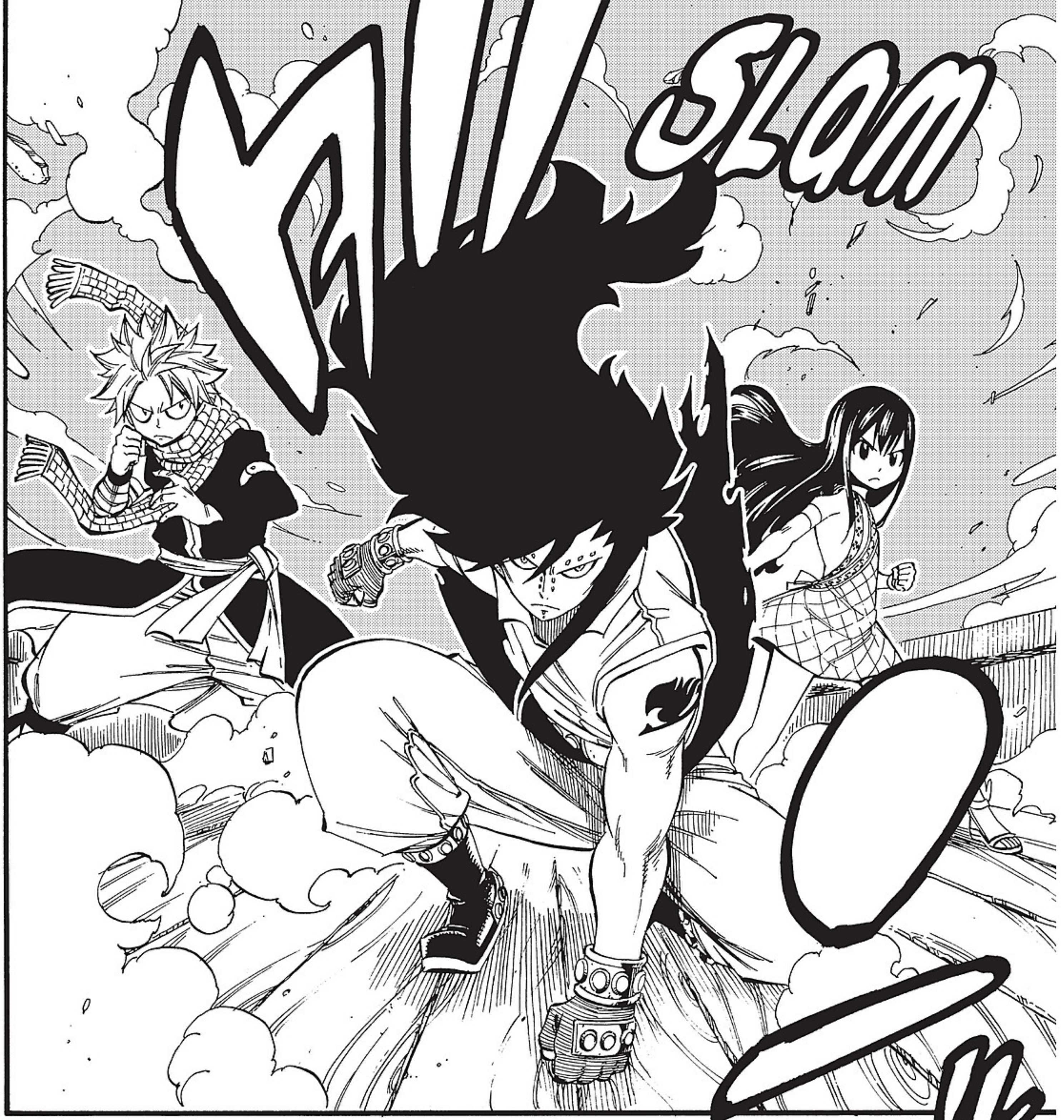


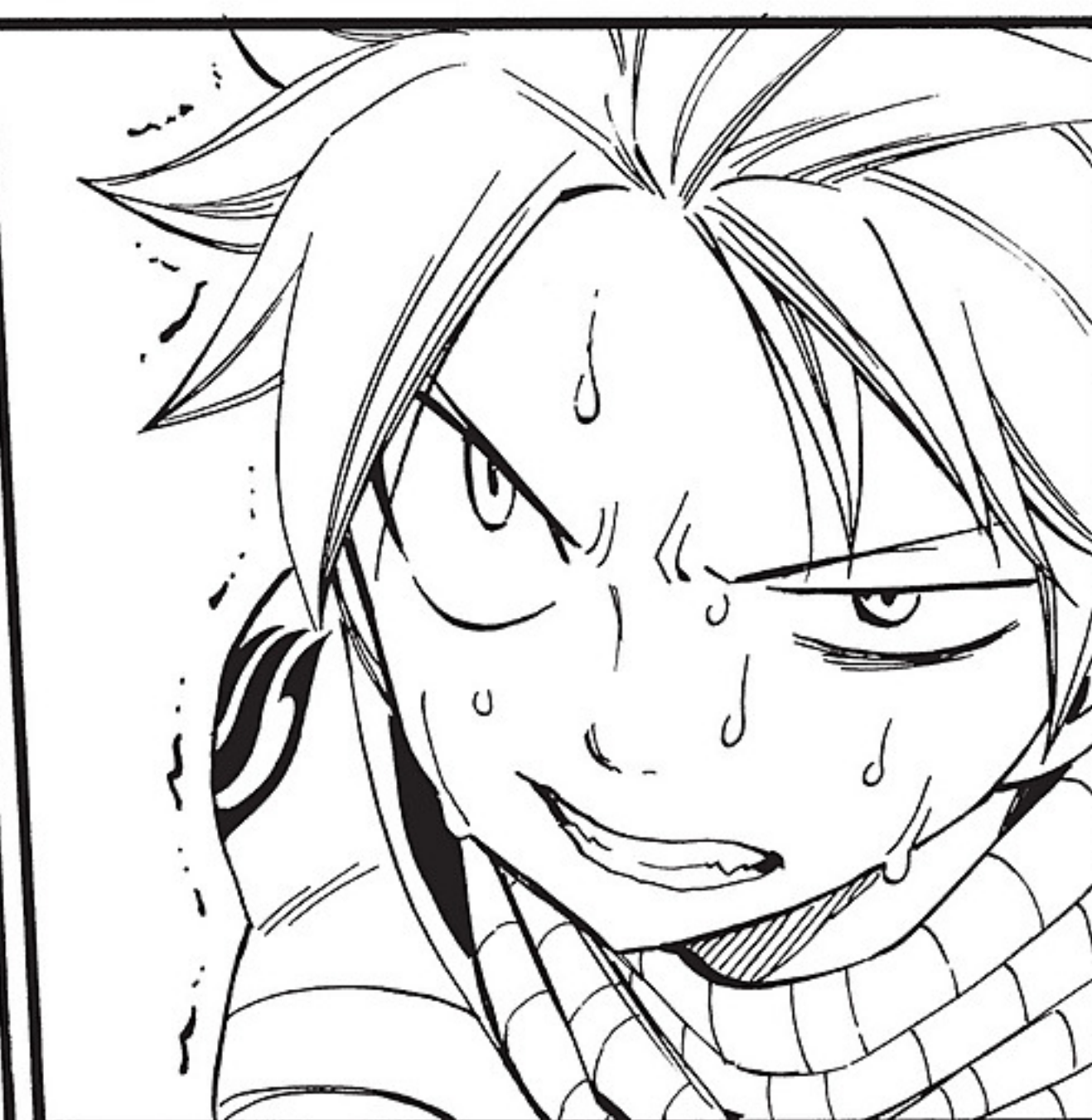
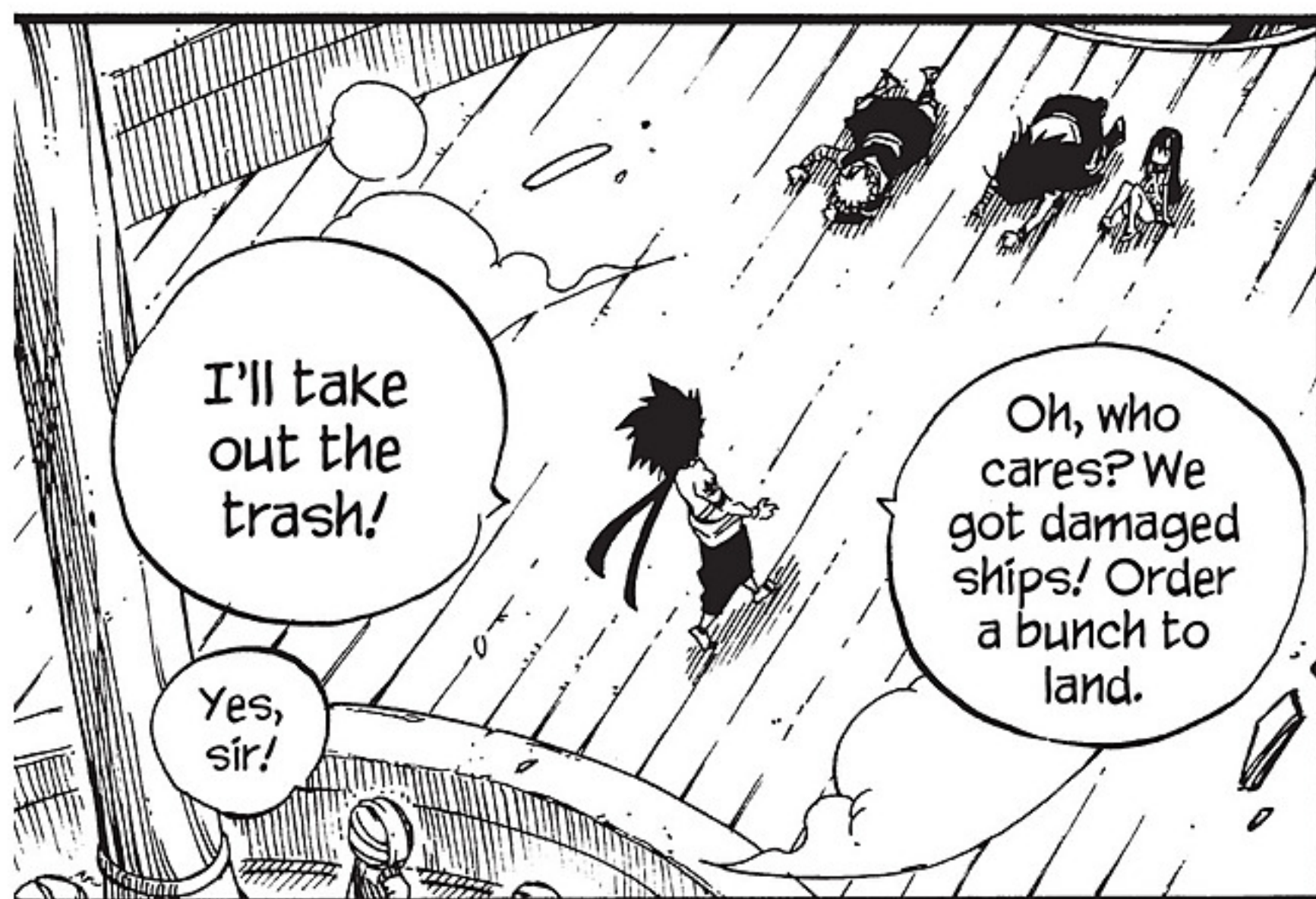






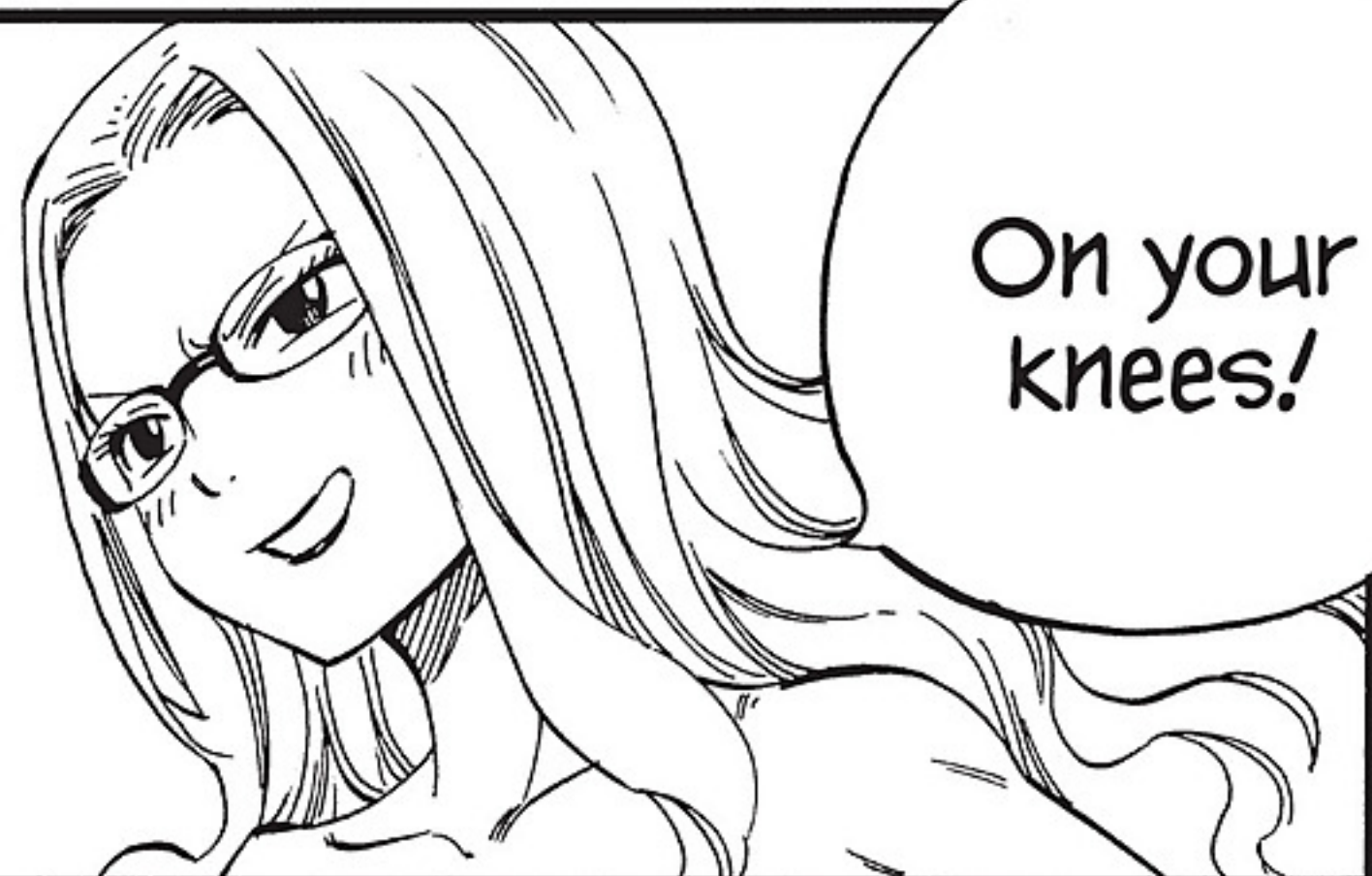








Kneel
before
Títania,
the Fairy
Queen!!!



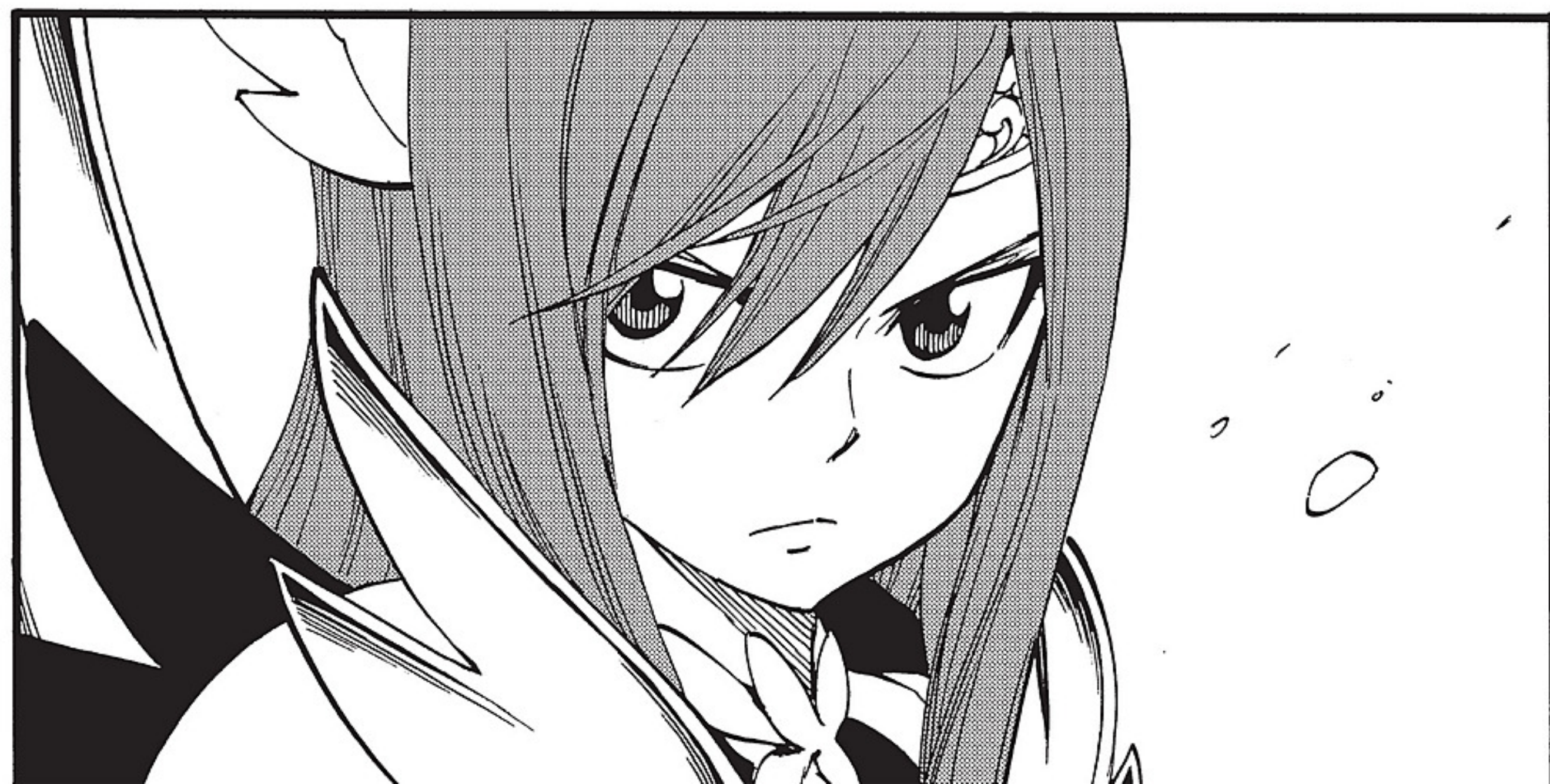
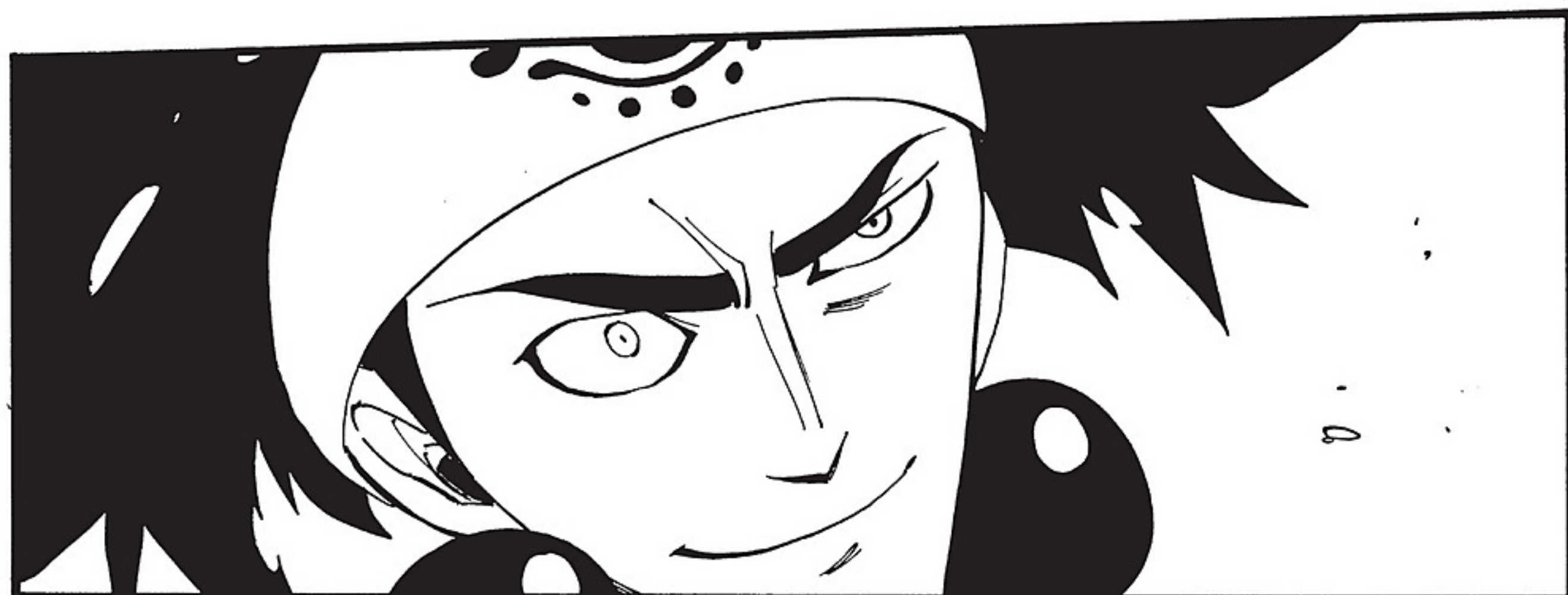
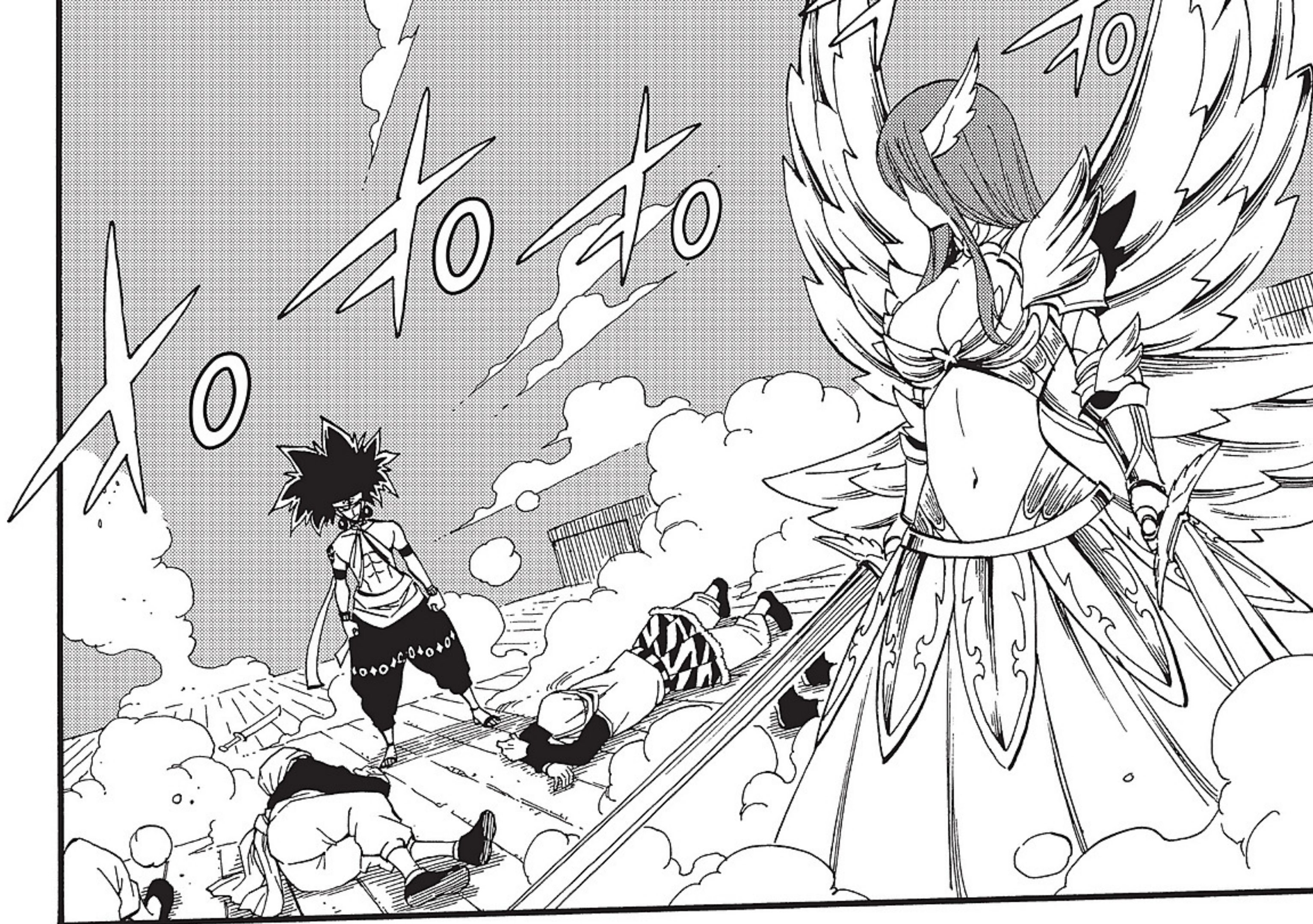
On your
knees!

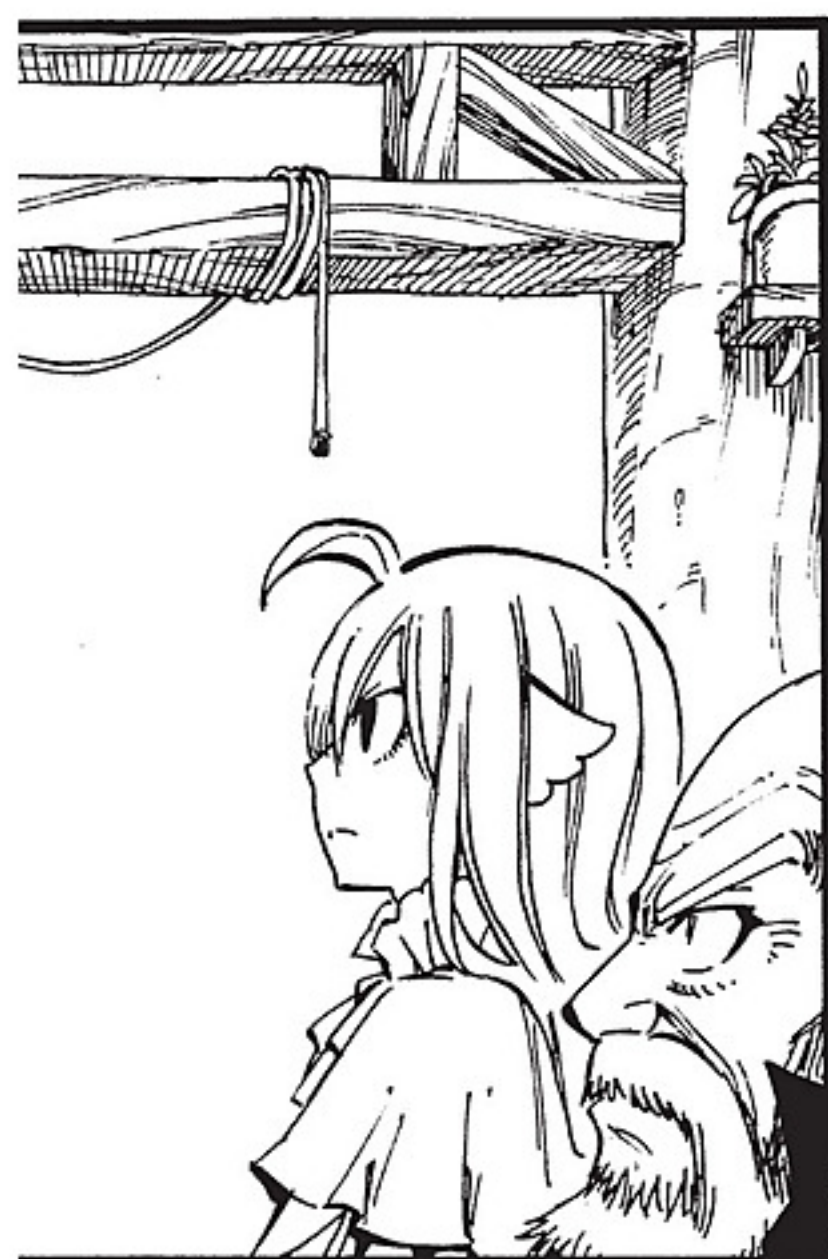
FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 455: Defending Magnolia





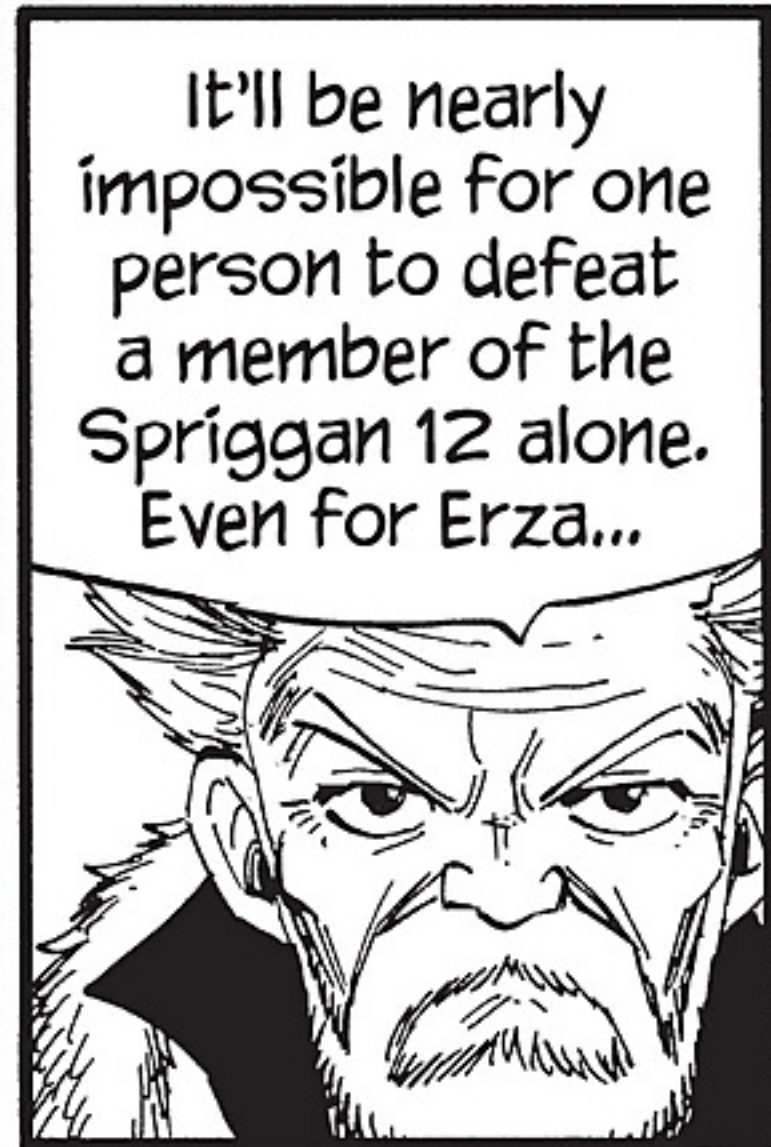




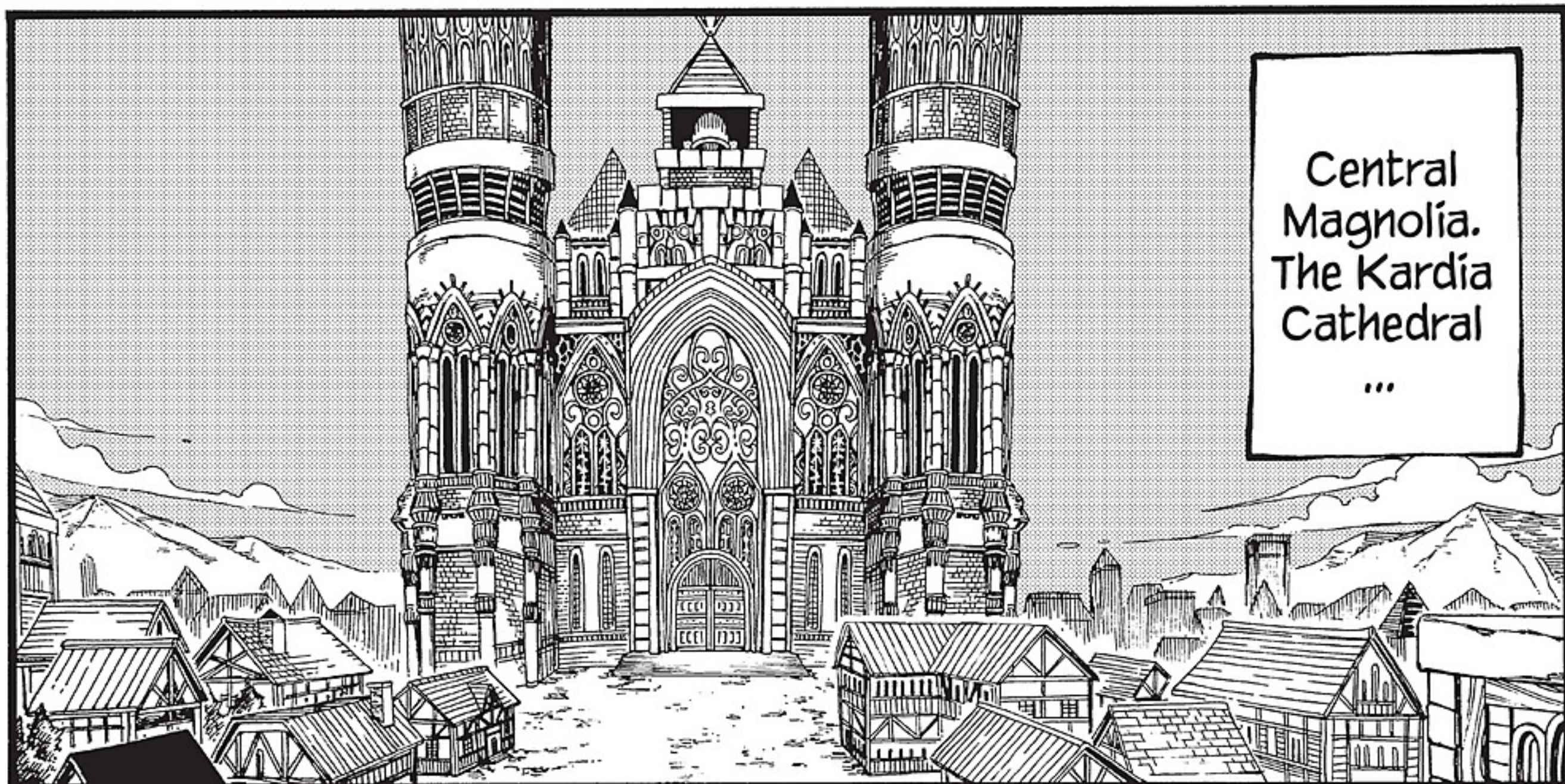
If we can
hold off the
vanguard, it'll be
a huge boost
to morale!



Let's trust
Erza.



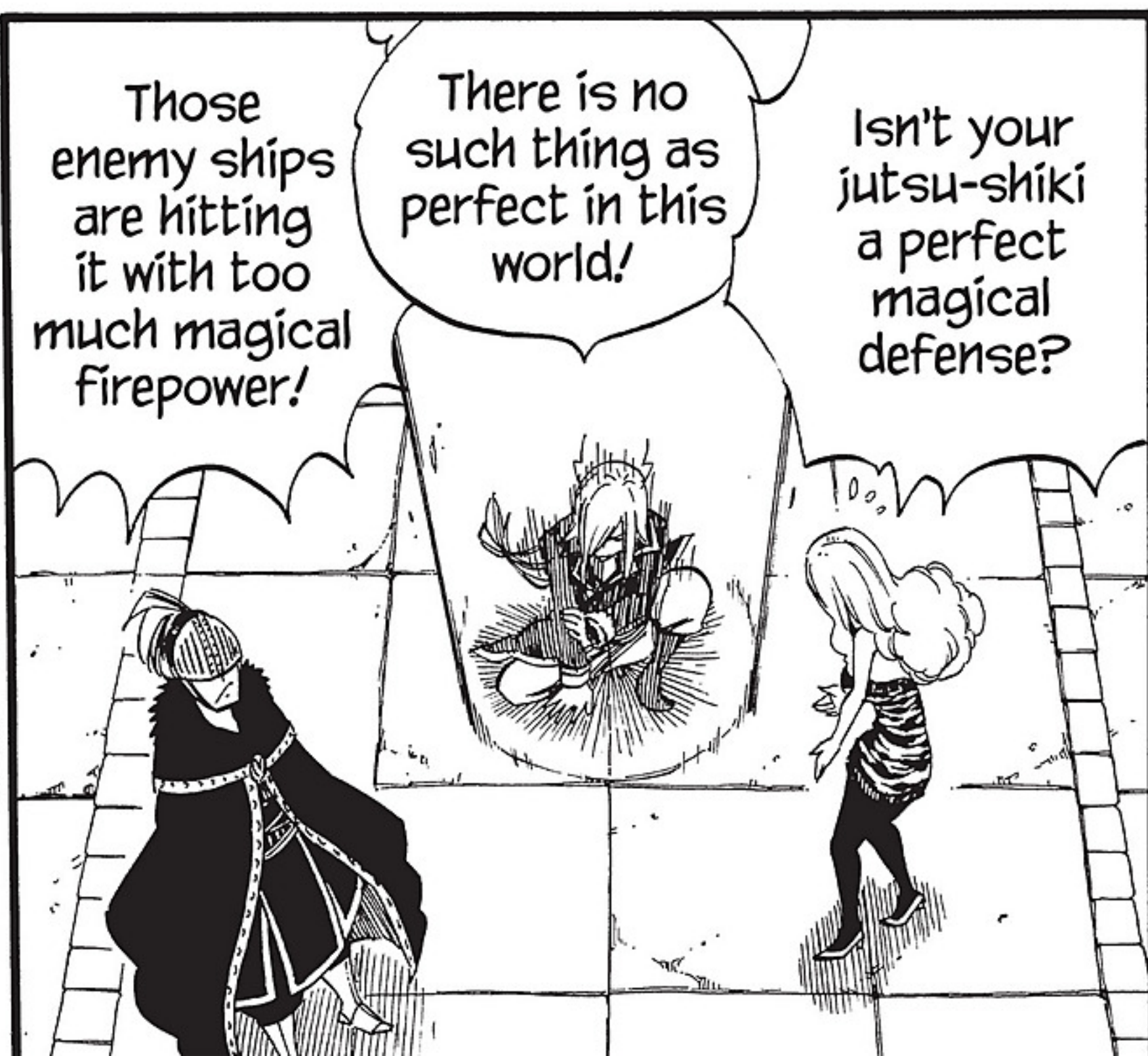
It'll be nearly
impossible for one
person to defeat
a member of the
Spriggan 12 alone.
Even for Erza...



Central
Magnolia.
The Kardia
Cathedral
...



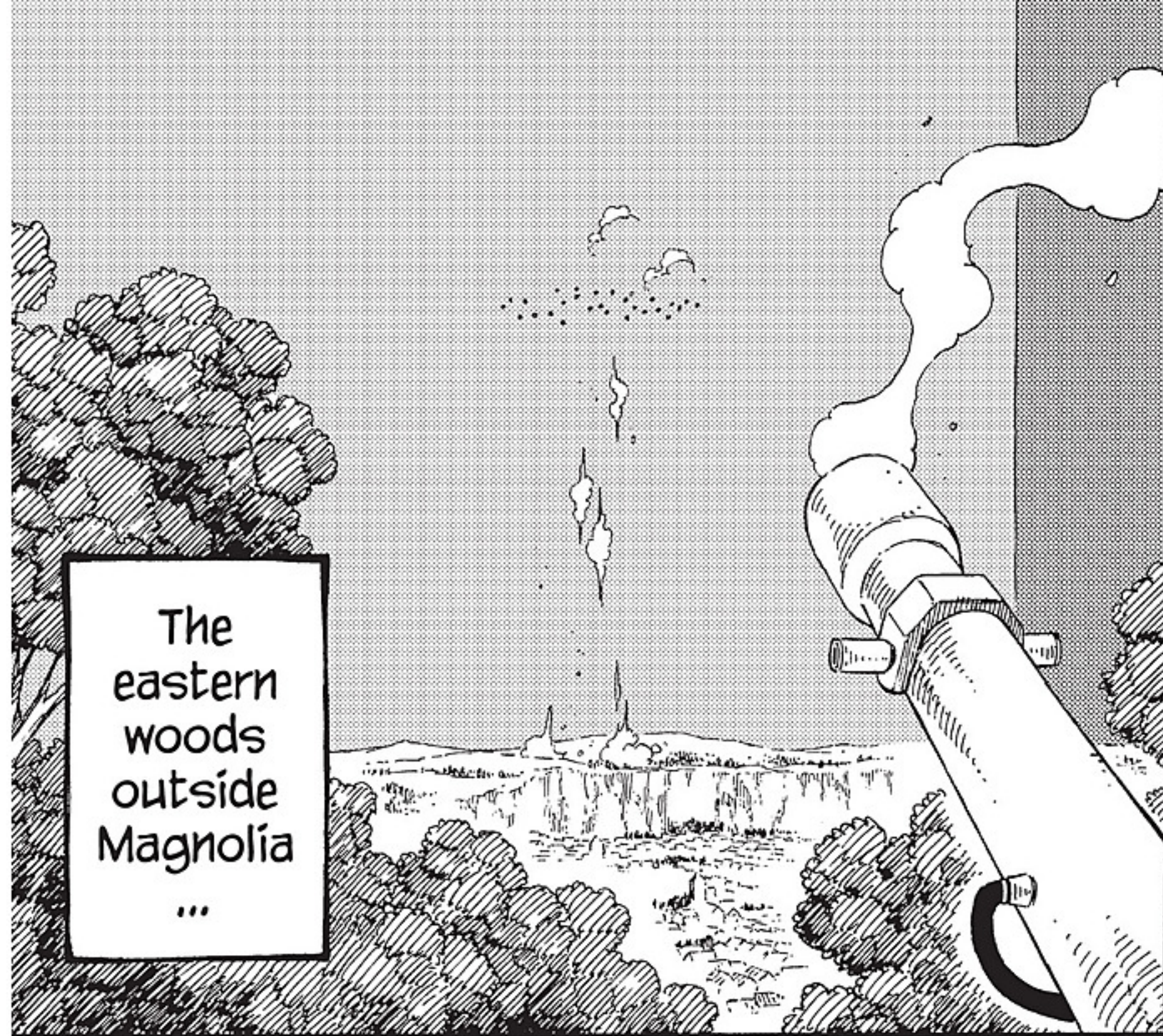
But thanks to the
Dragon Flight Force
and the Osprey
Force, the enemy
attack has been
halved!



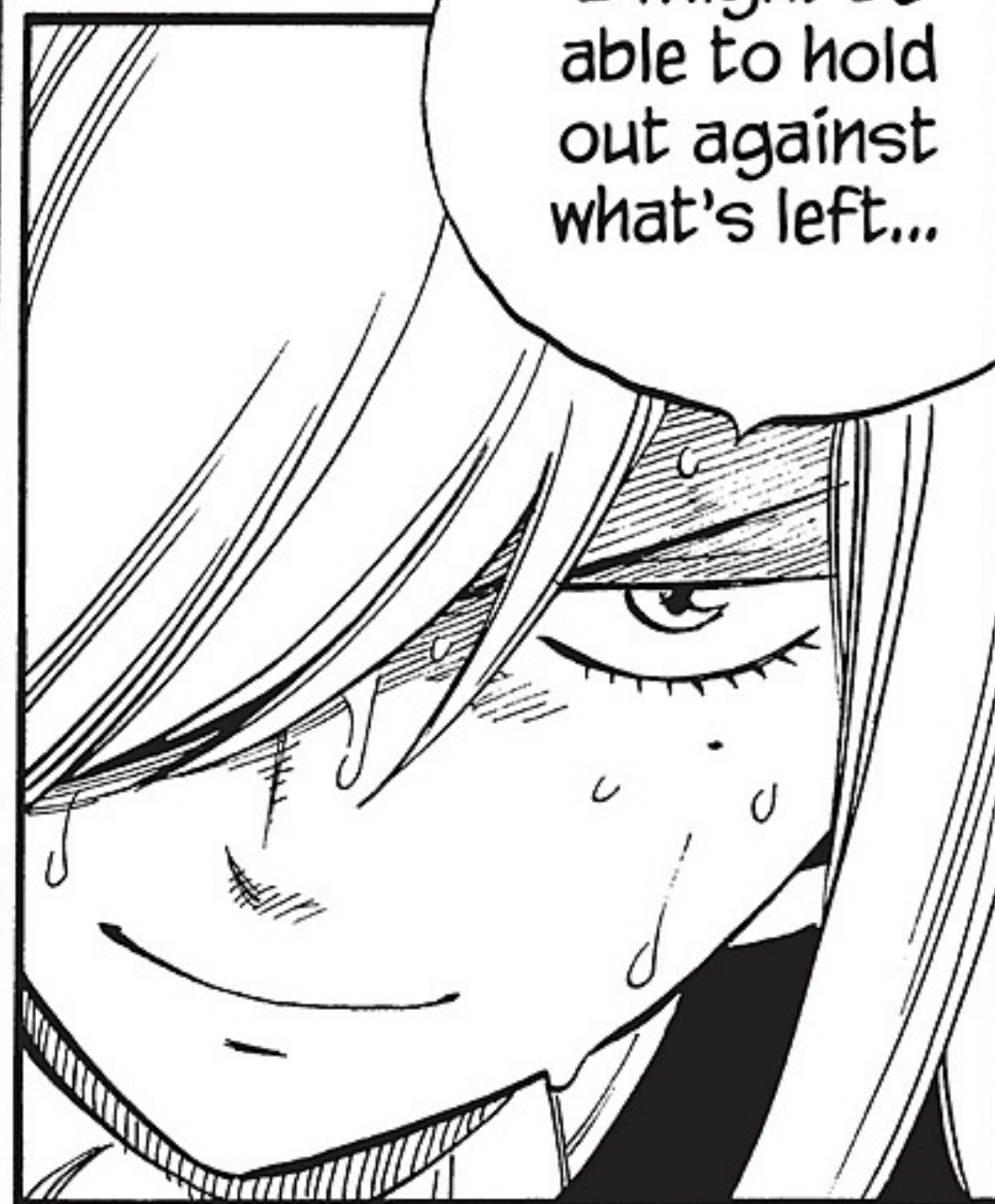
Those
enemy ships
are hitting
it with too
much magical
firepower!

There is no
such thing as
perfect in this
world!

Isn't your
jutsu-shiki
a perfect
magical
defense?



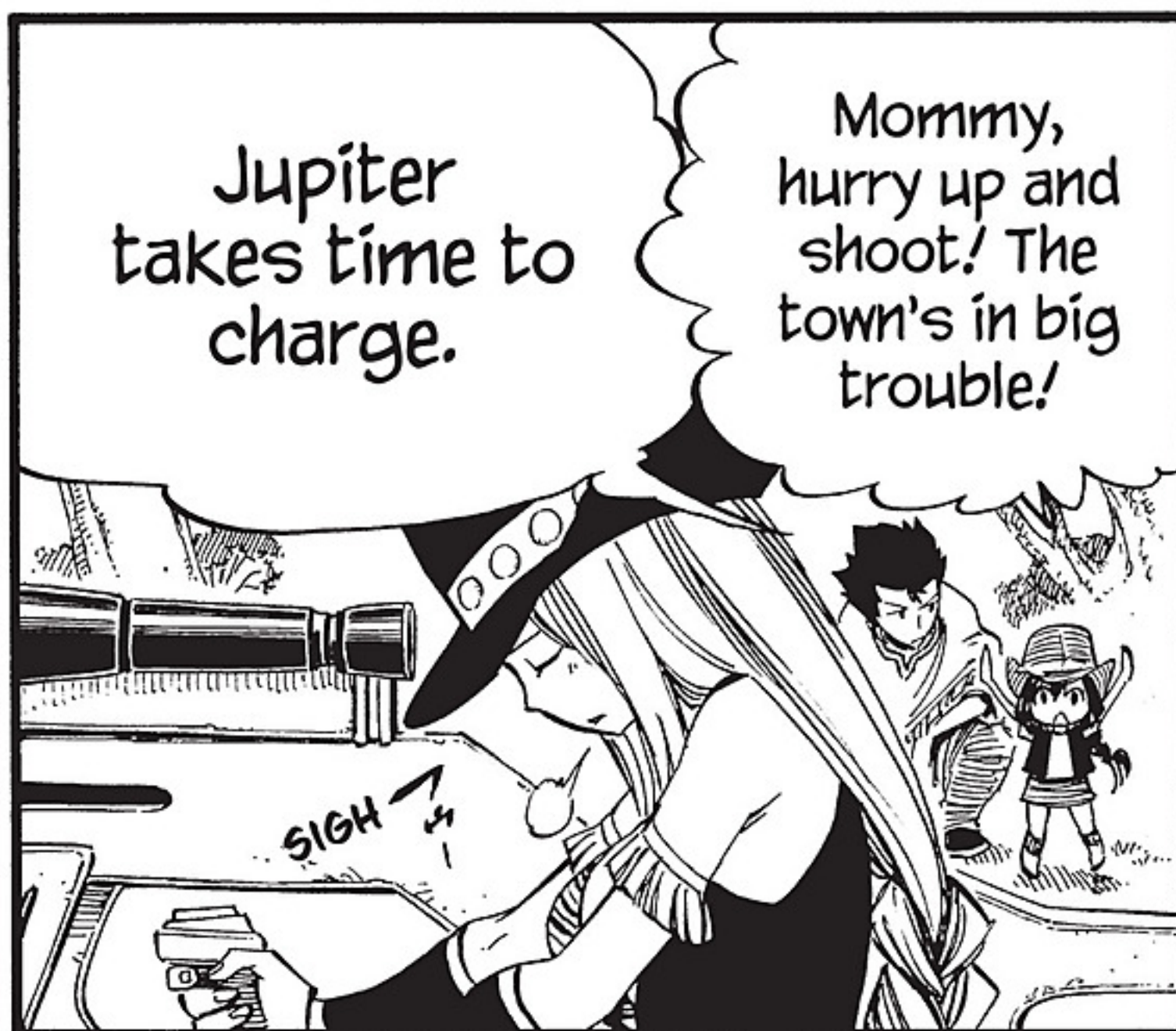
The
eastern
woods
outside
Magnolia
...



I might be
able to hold
out against
what's left...

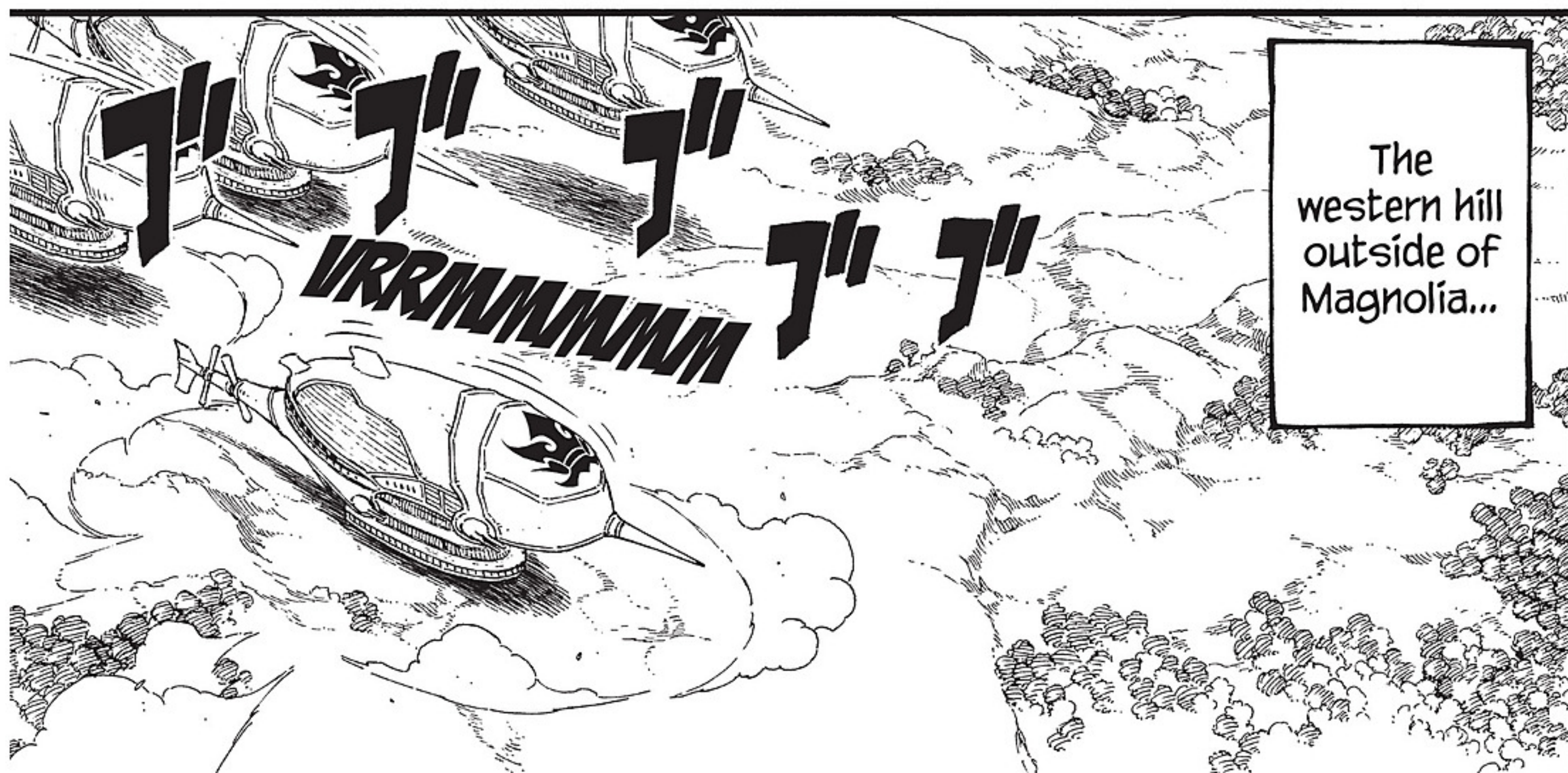


But next
time, I'll
hit 'em for
sure!

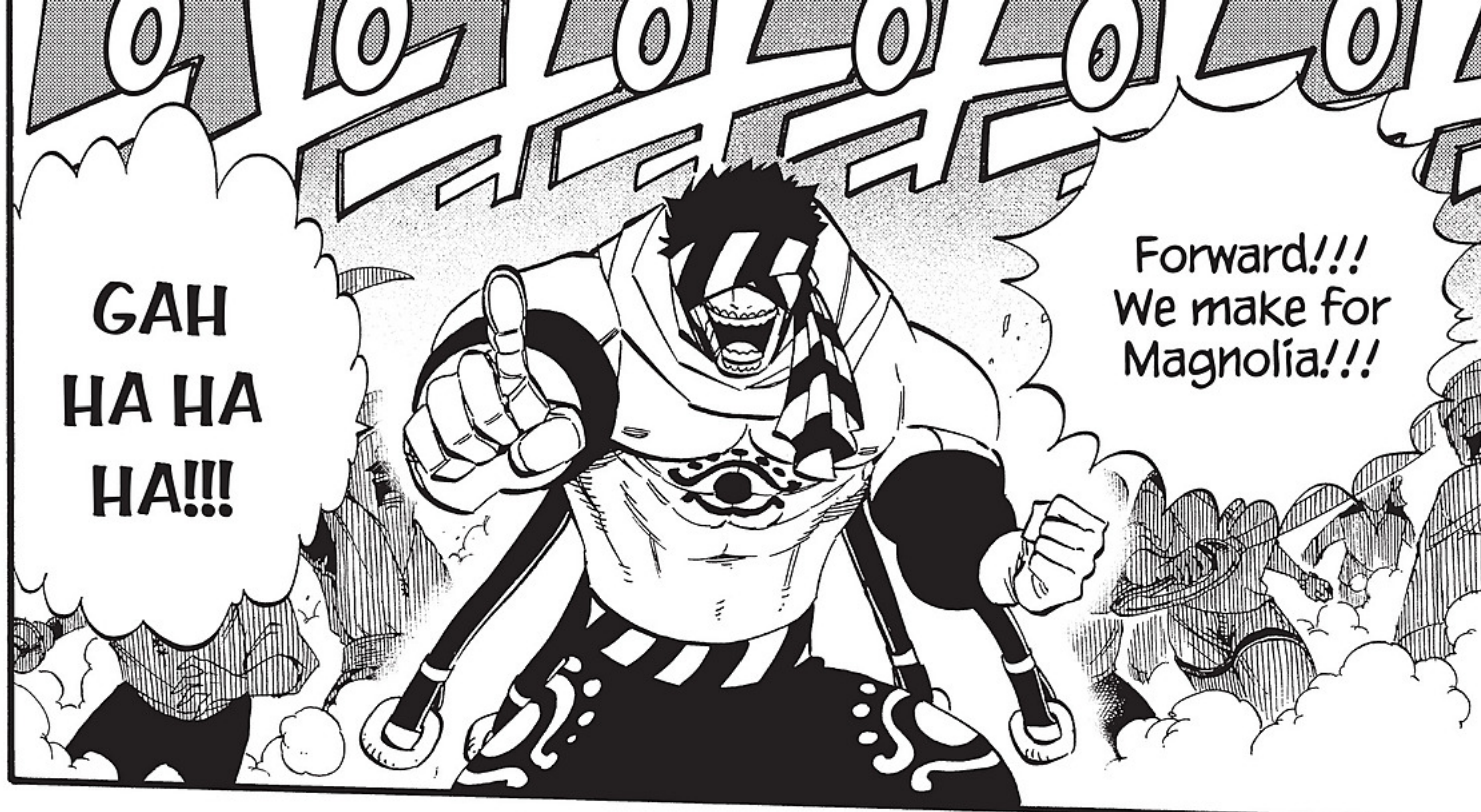


Jupiter
takes time to
charge.

Mommy,
hurry up and
shoot! The
town's in big
trouble!



The
western hill
outside of
Magnolia...



GAH
HA HA
HA!!!

Forward!!!
We make for
Magnolia!!!



Not a
clue!

HEHN



RUMBLE

But
Commander,
how will we
break through
the jutsu-
shiki?



I suppose it is
no obstacle. With
that personage
present, the
jutsu-shiki is
bound to come
down.

GAH
HA
HA
HA!!



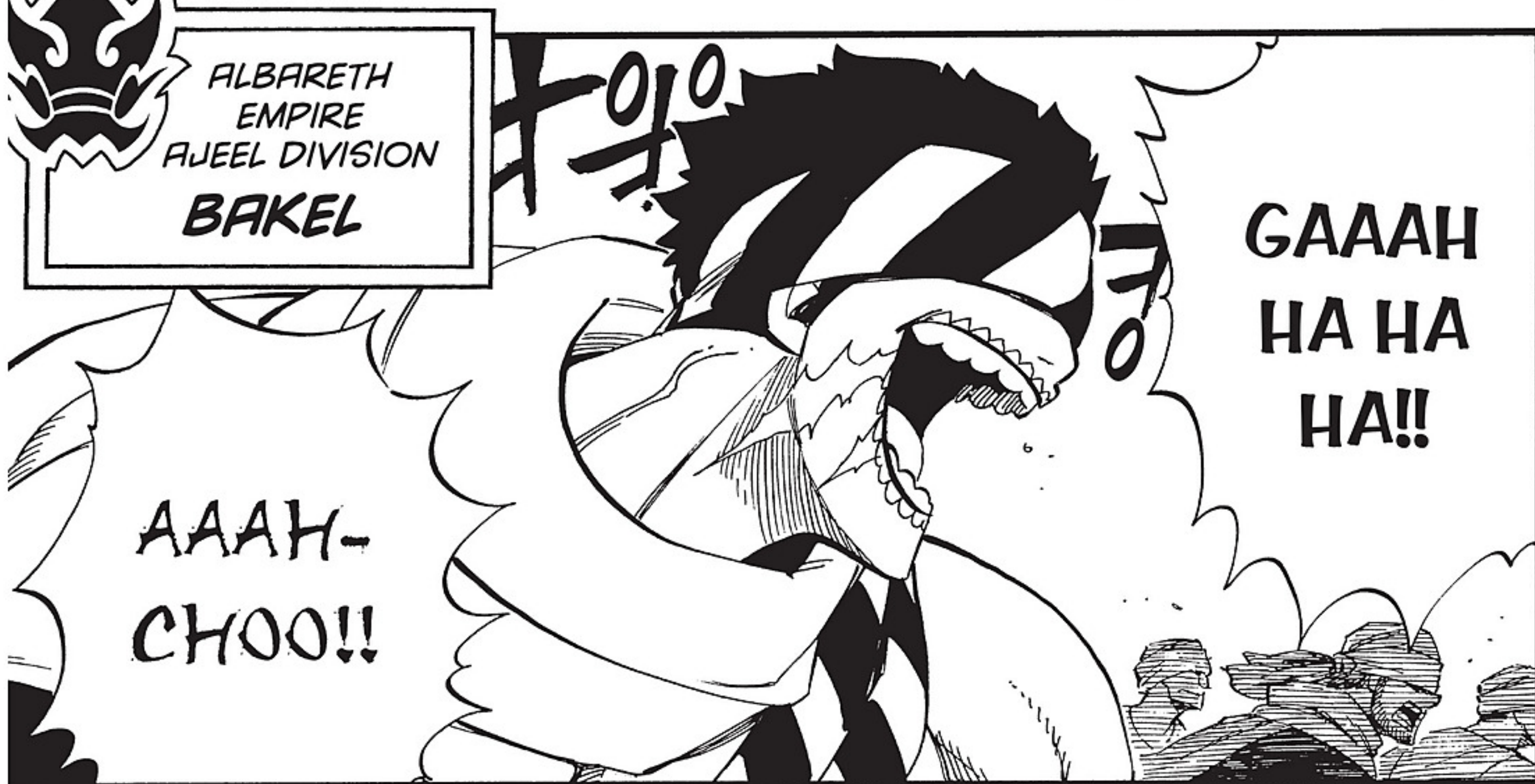
...



To tell the truth,
I feel this kind
of force is wholly
unnecessary
for an opponent
of their lowly
caliber.

However,
it is the duty
of a soldier to
carry out his
mission.

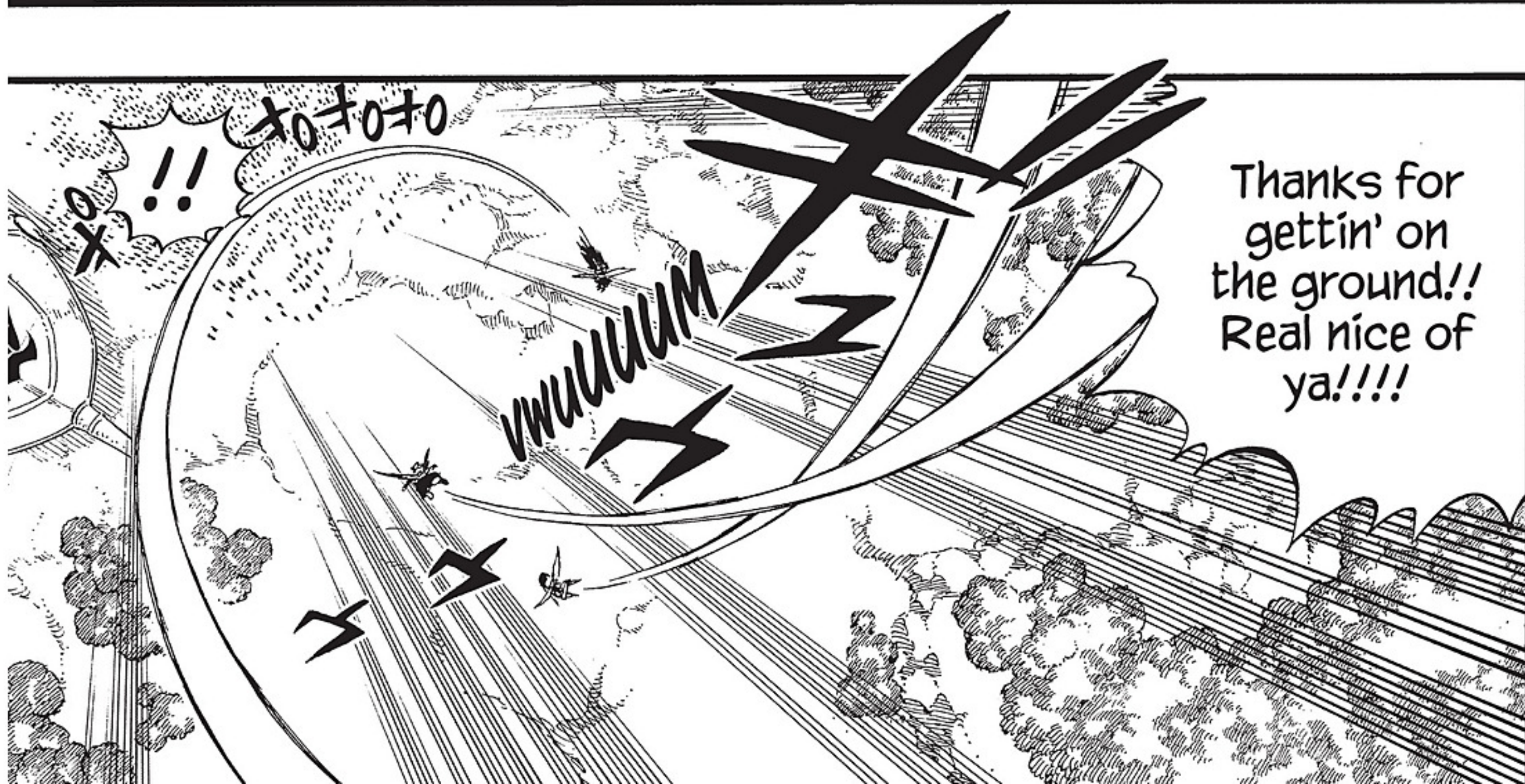
ALBARETH
EMPIRE
AJEEL DIVISION
KAREEM



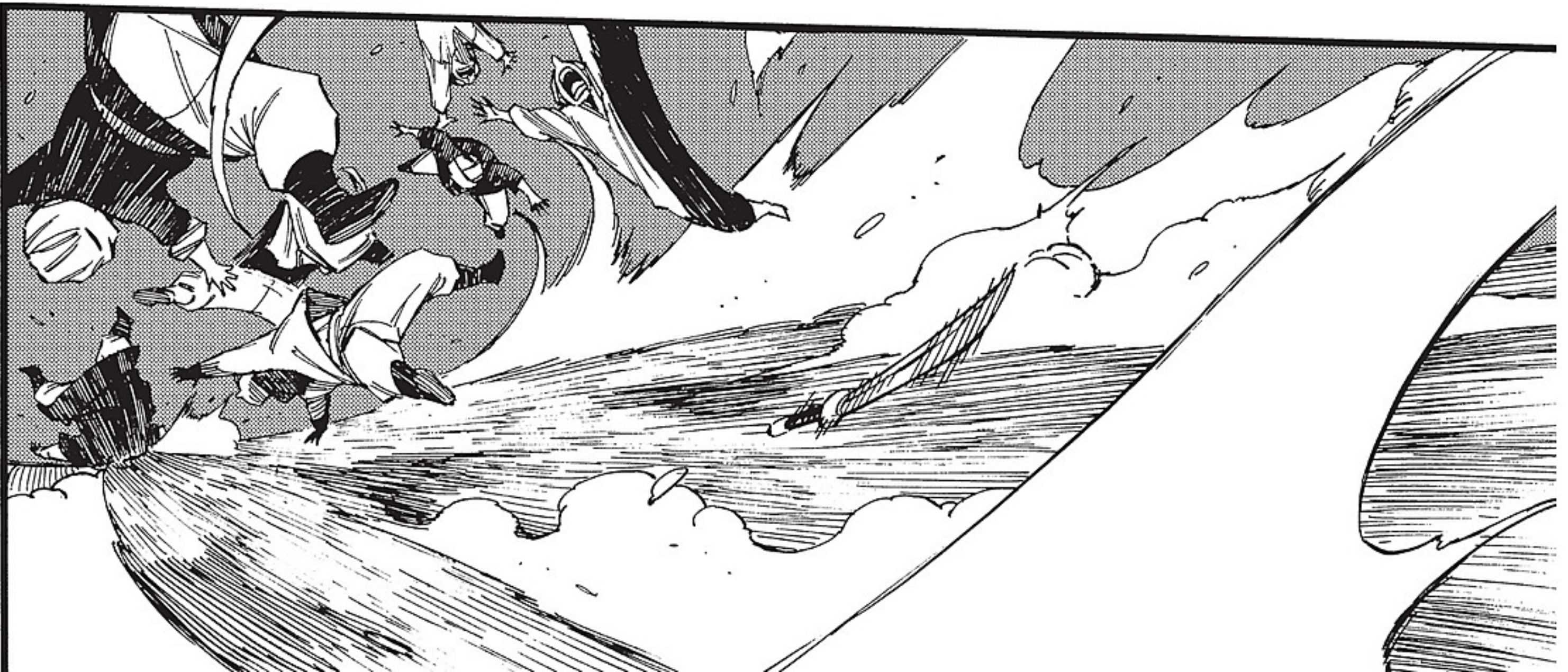
ALBARETH
EMPIRE
AJEEL DIVISION
BAKEL

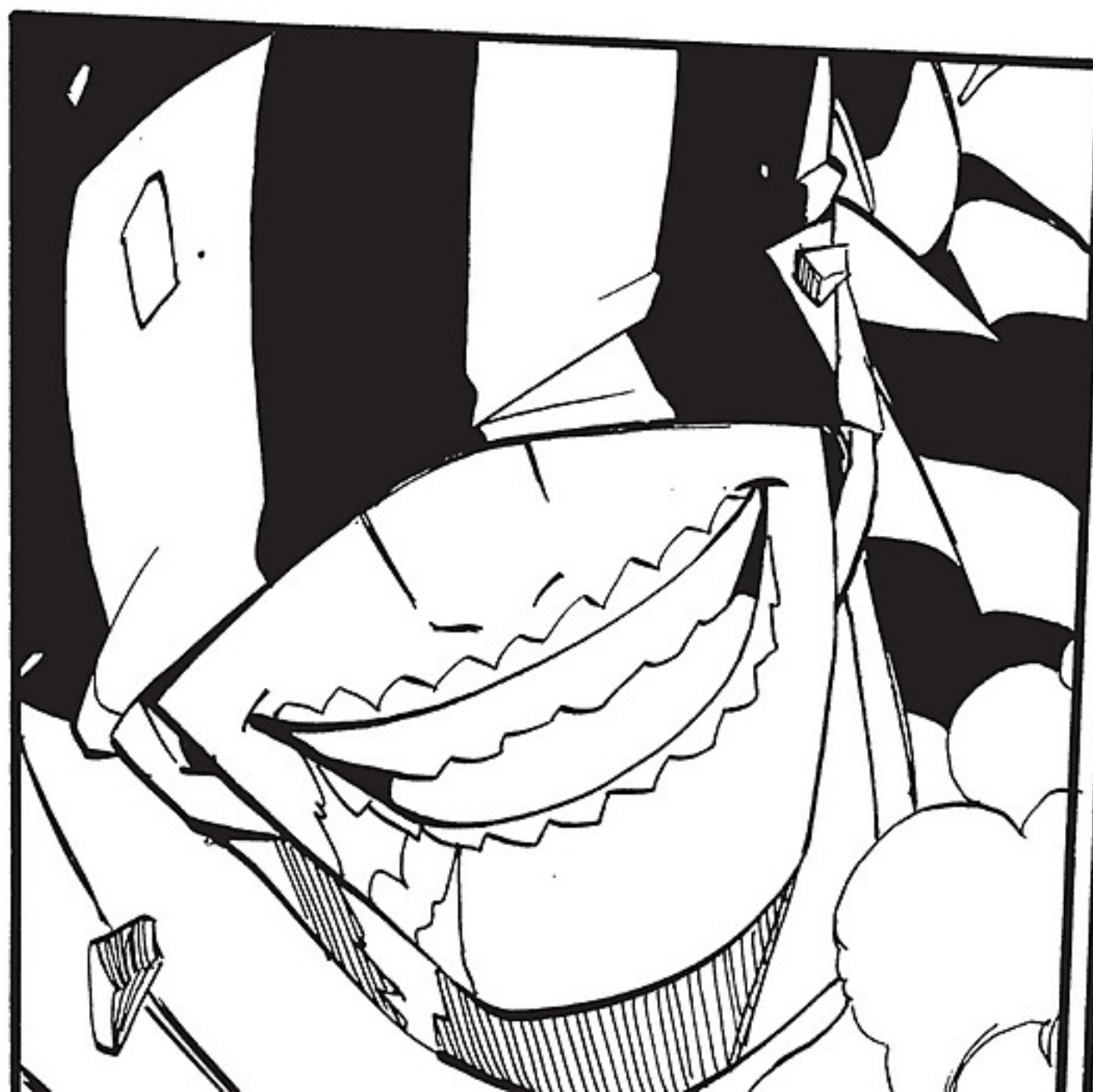
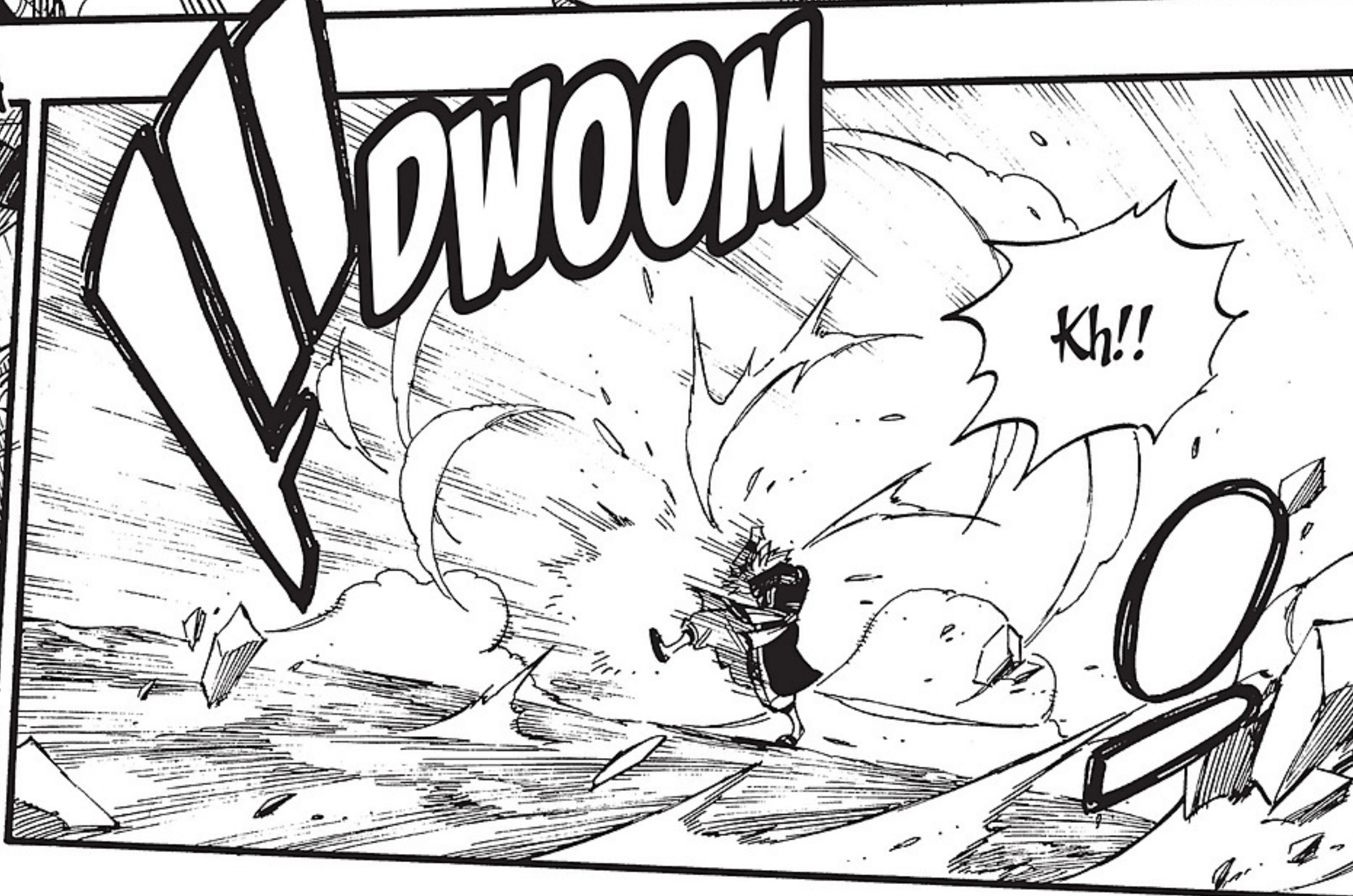
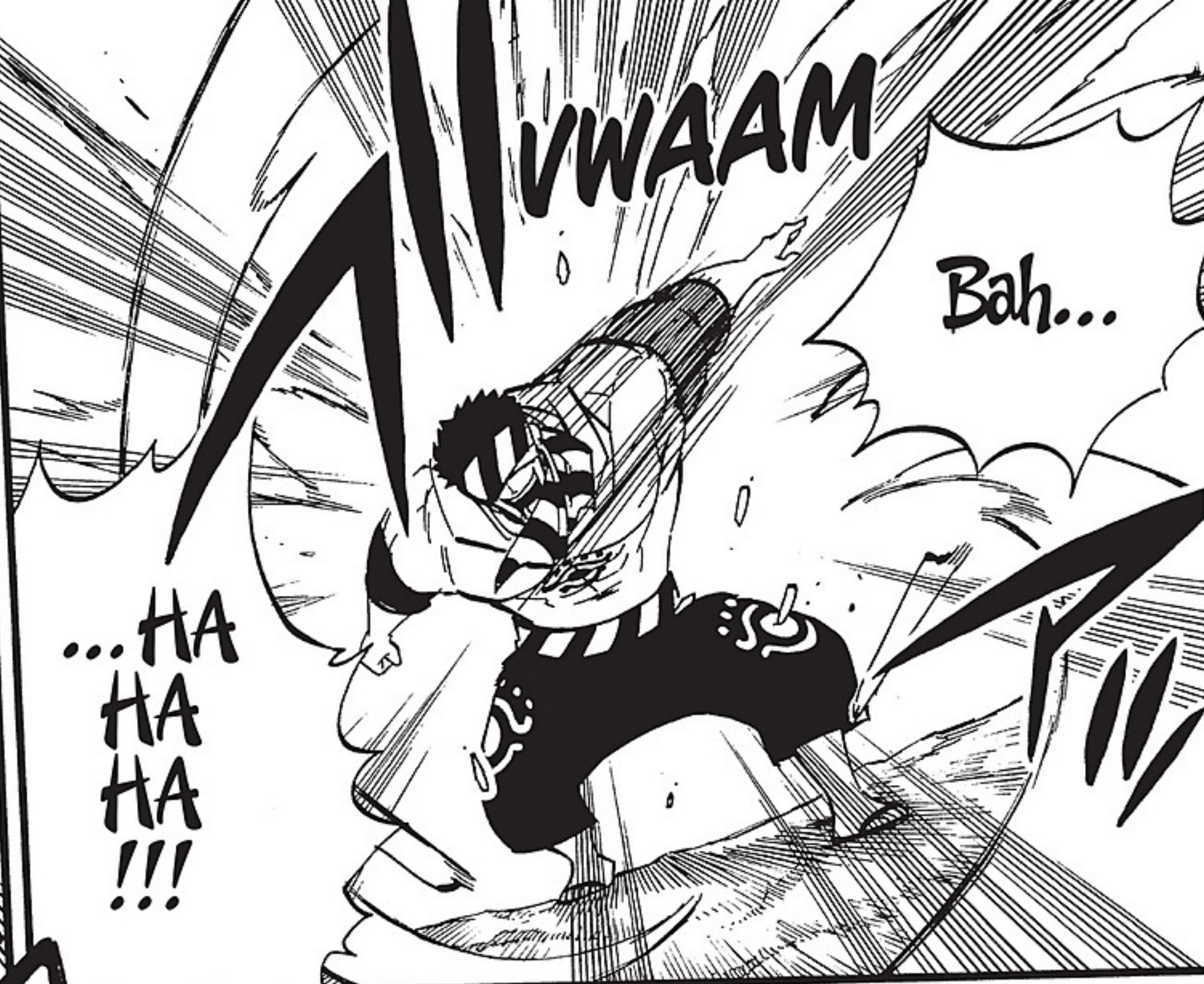
GAAAH
HA HA
HA!!

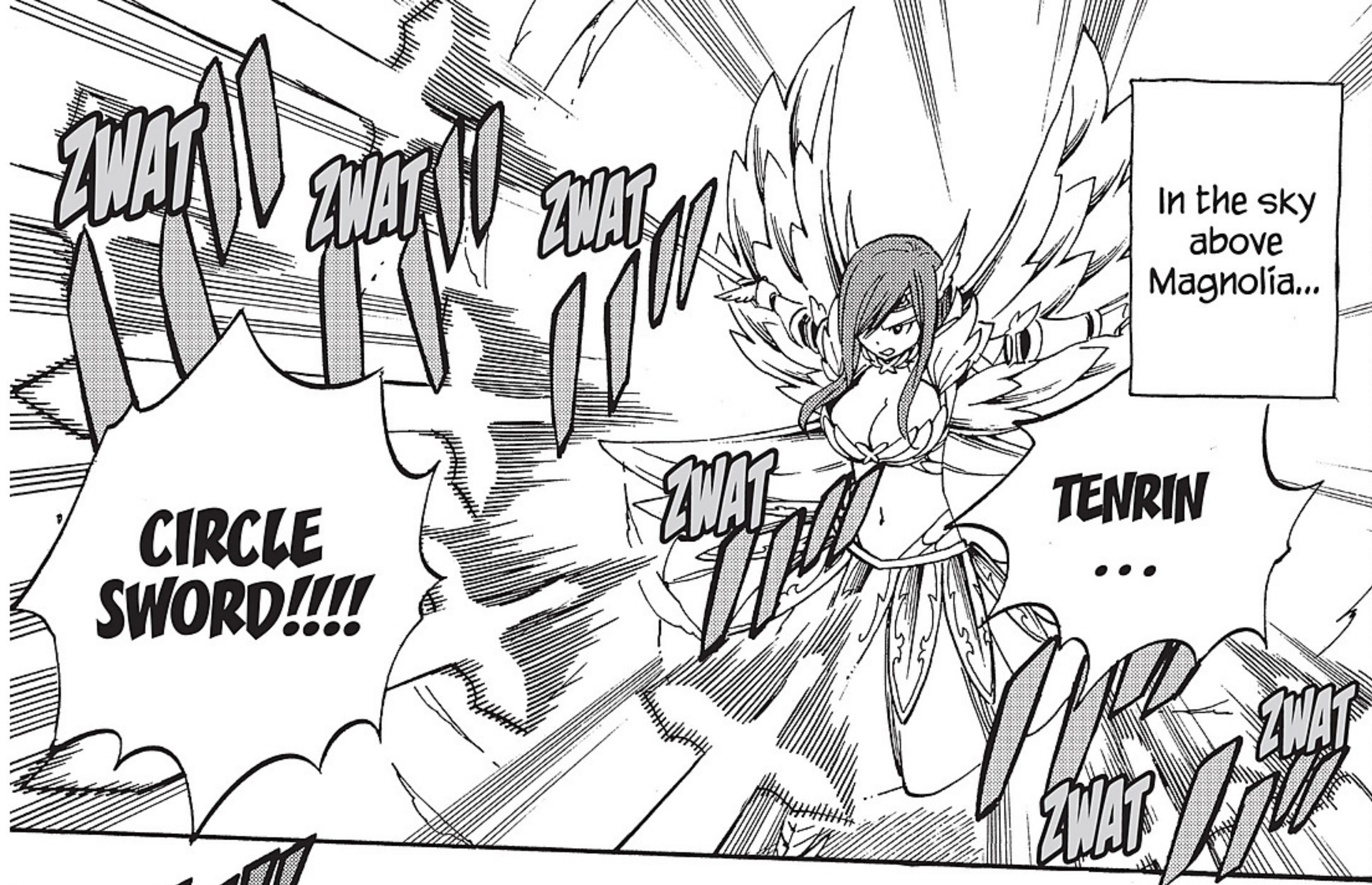
AAAH-
CHOO!!



Thanks for
gettin' on
the ground!!
Real nice of
ya!!!!

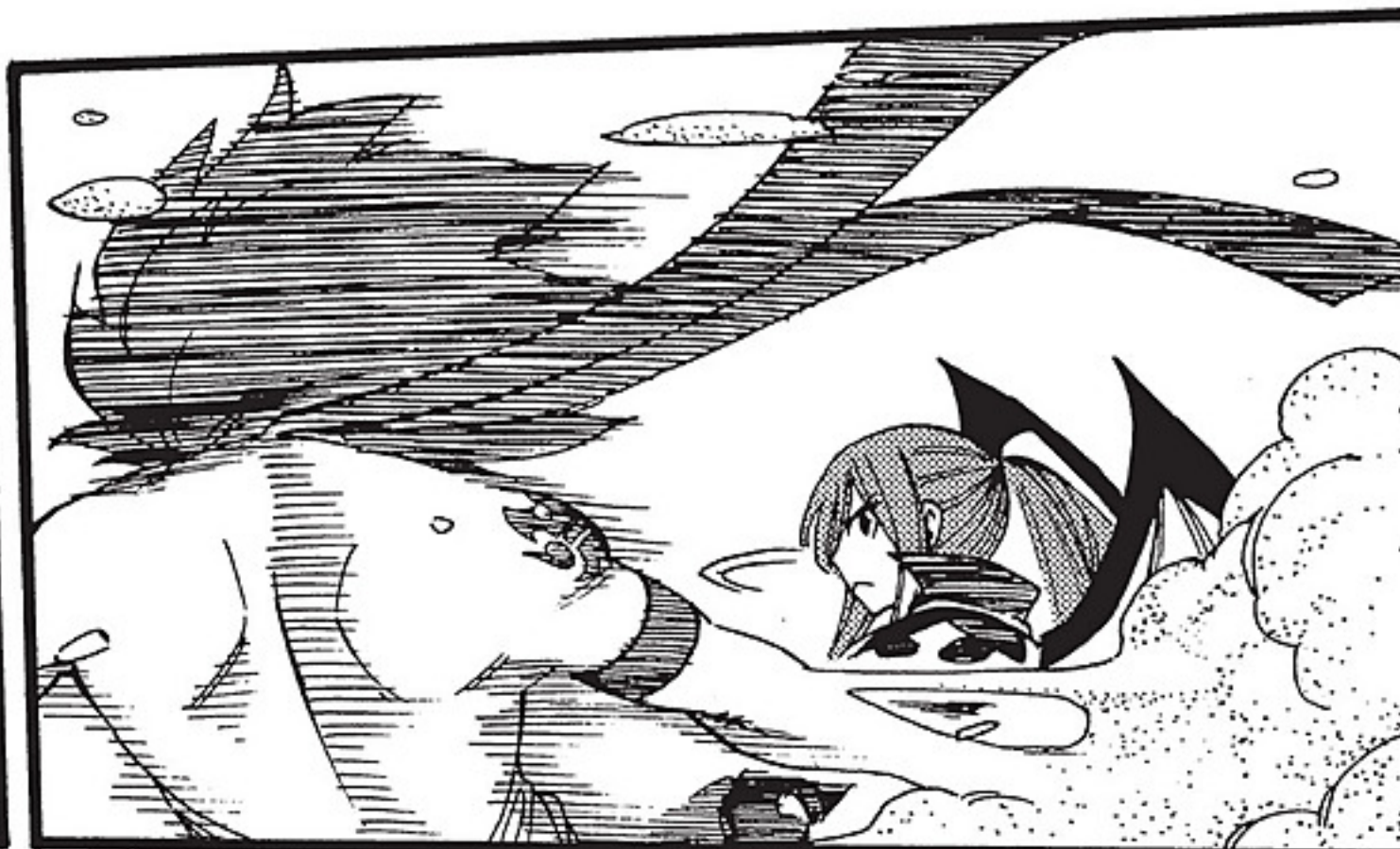








Tell me, are there many in your guild who are stronger than you?

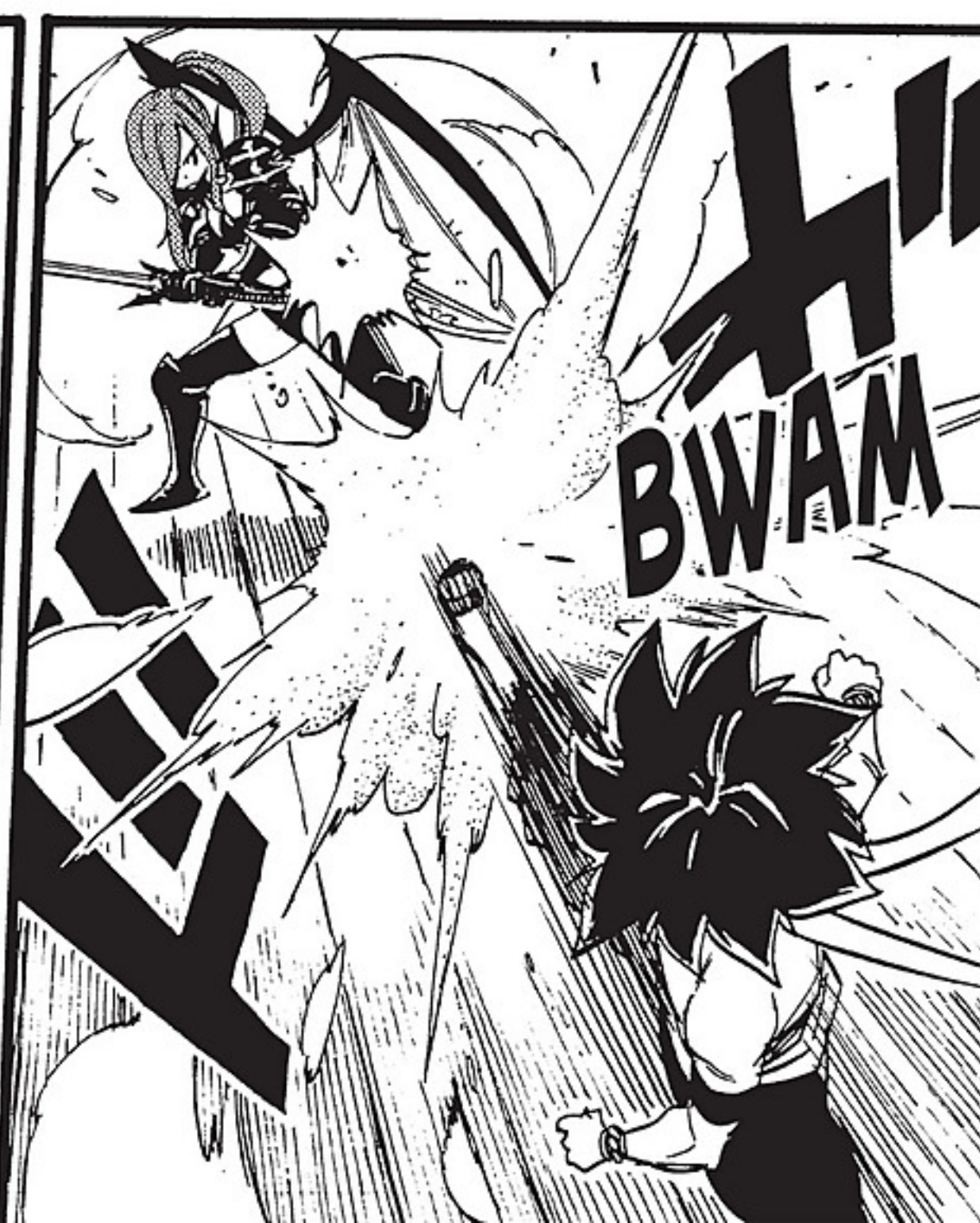


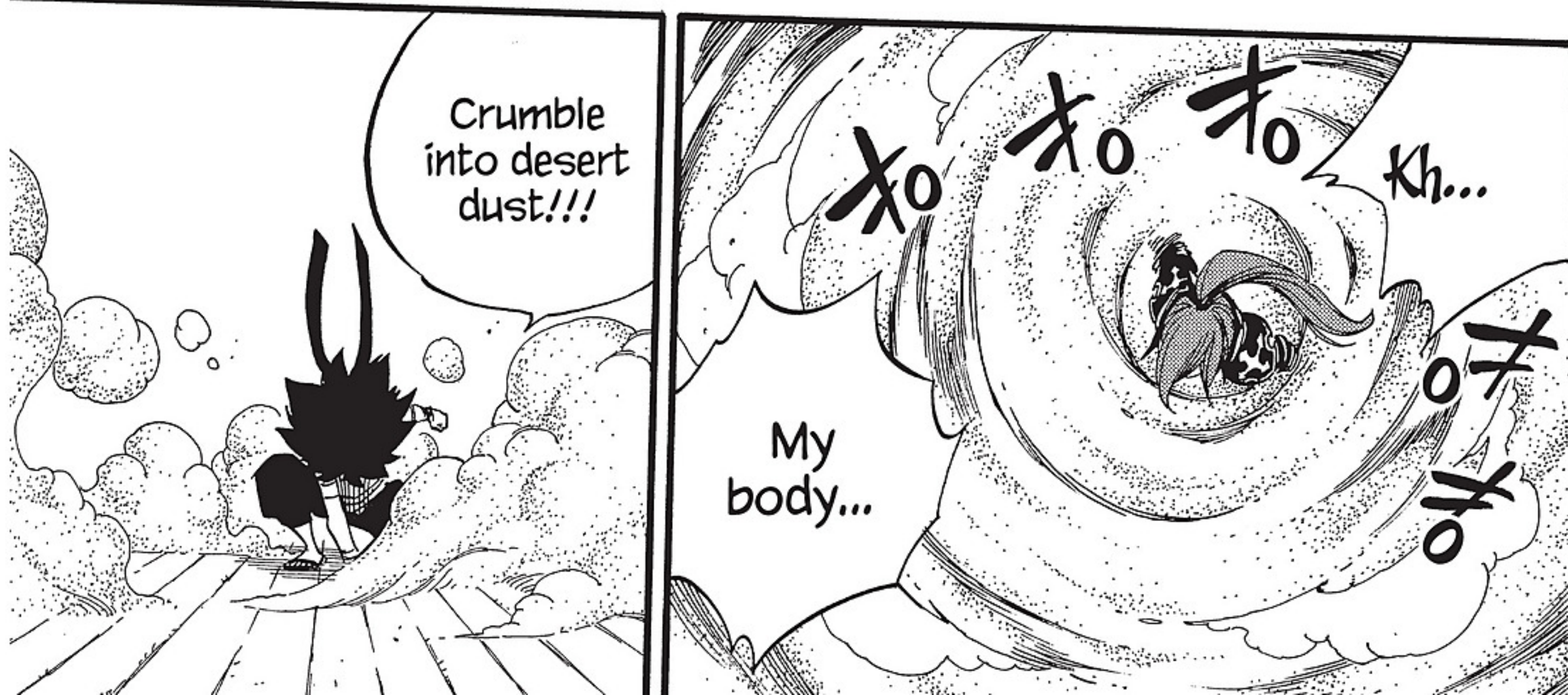
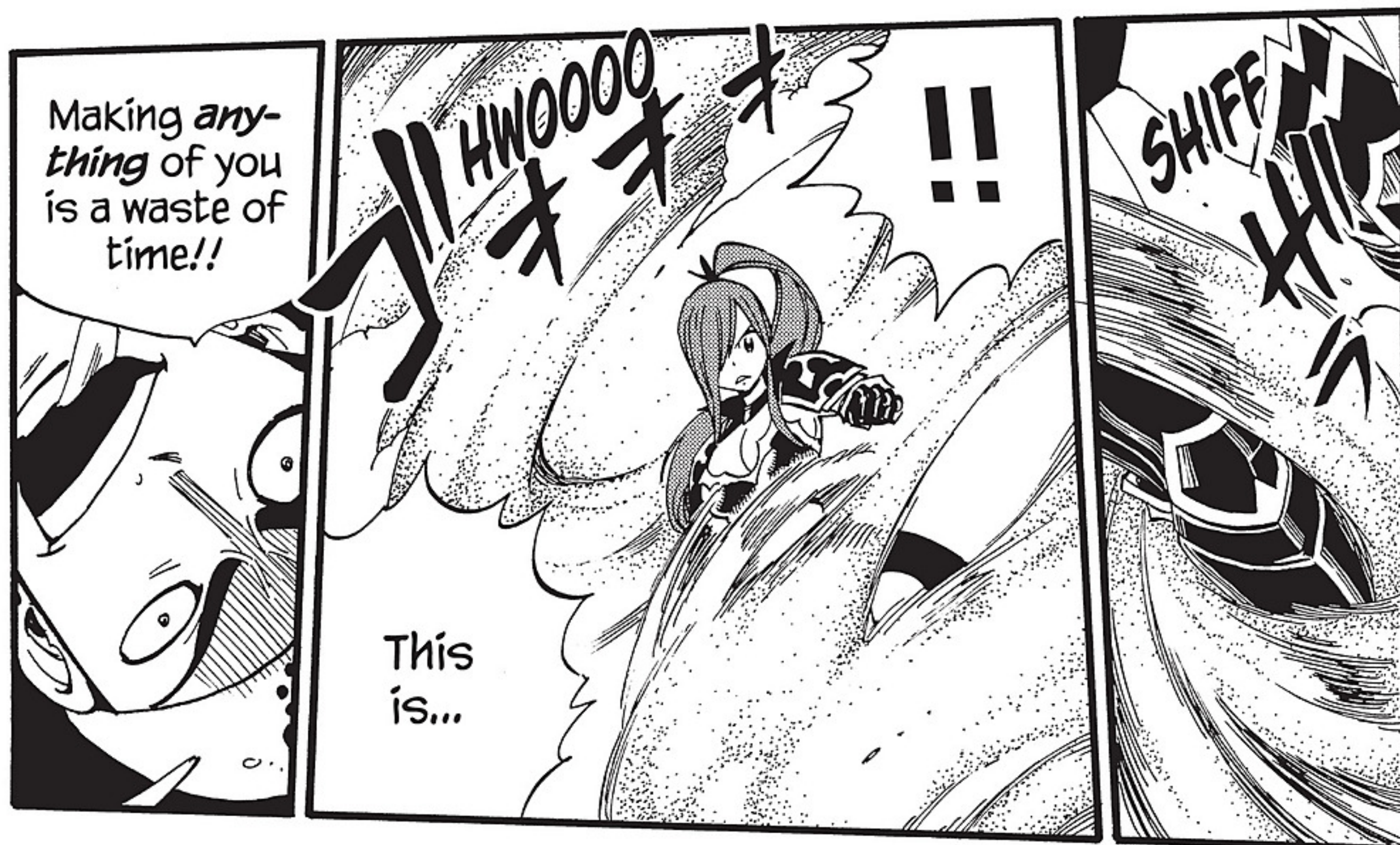
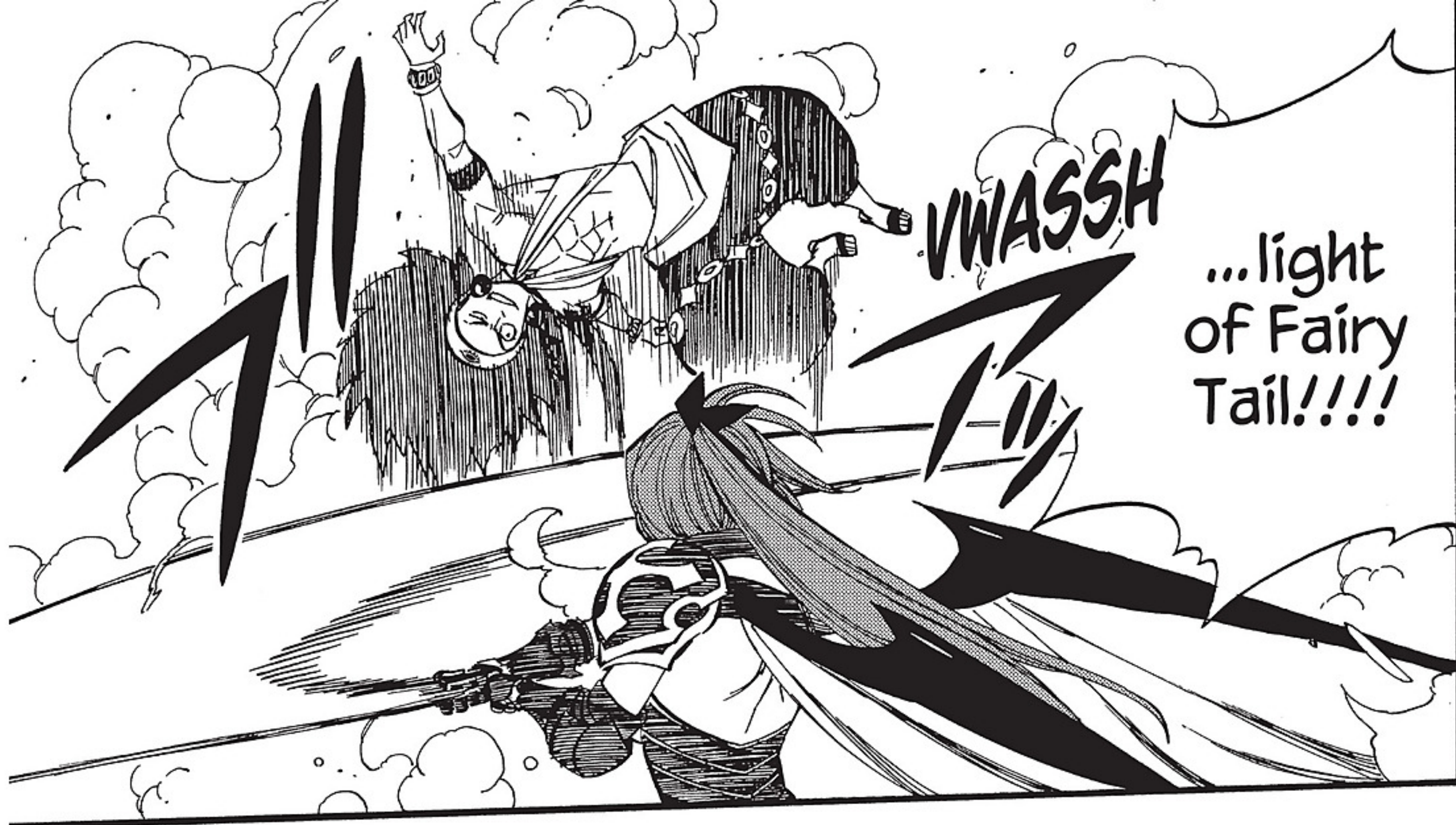
Don't make...

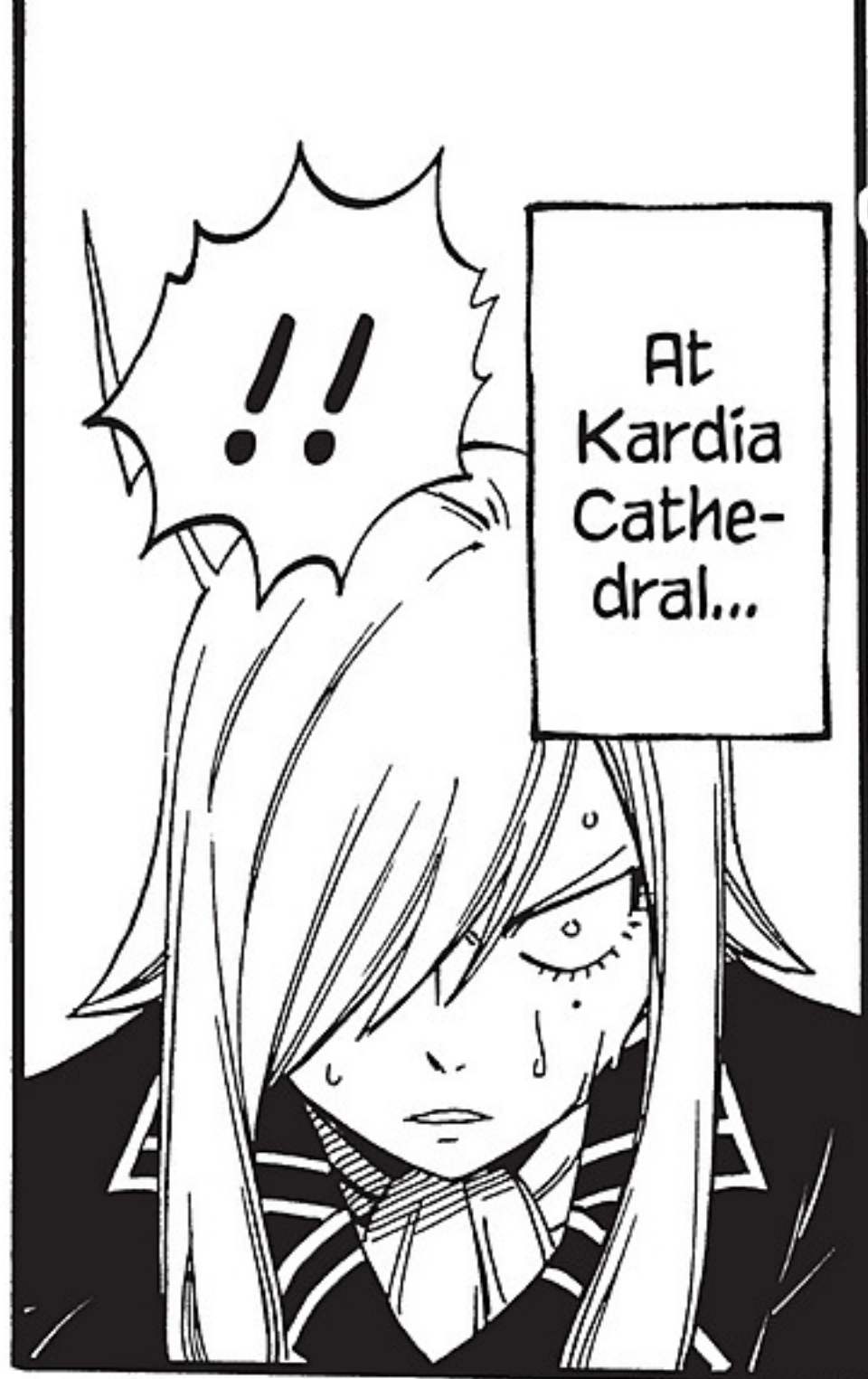


'Cause you're a real letdown so far!

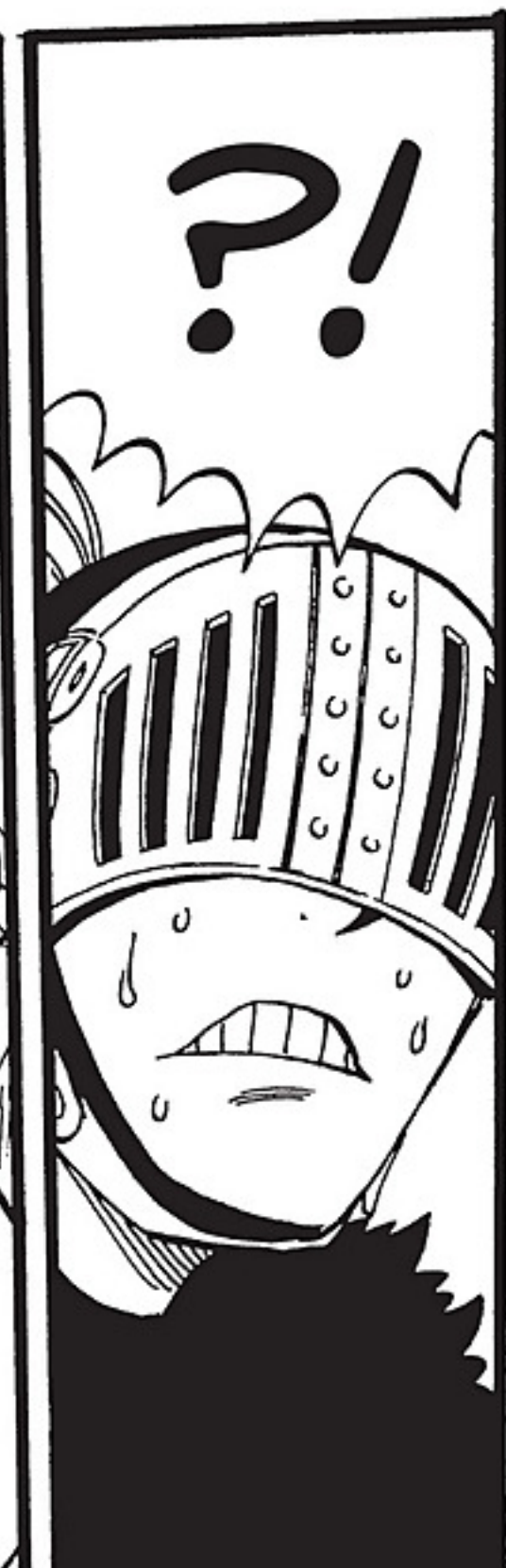
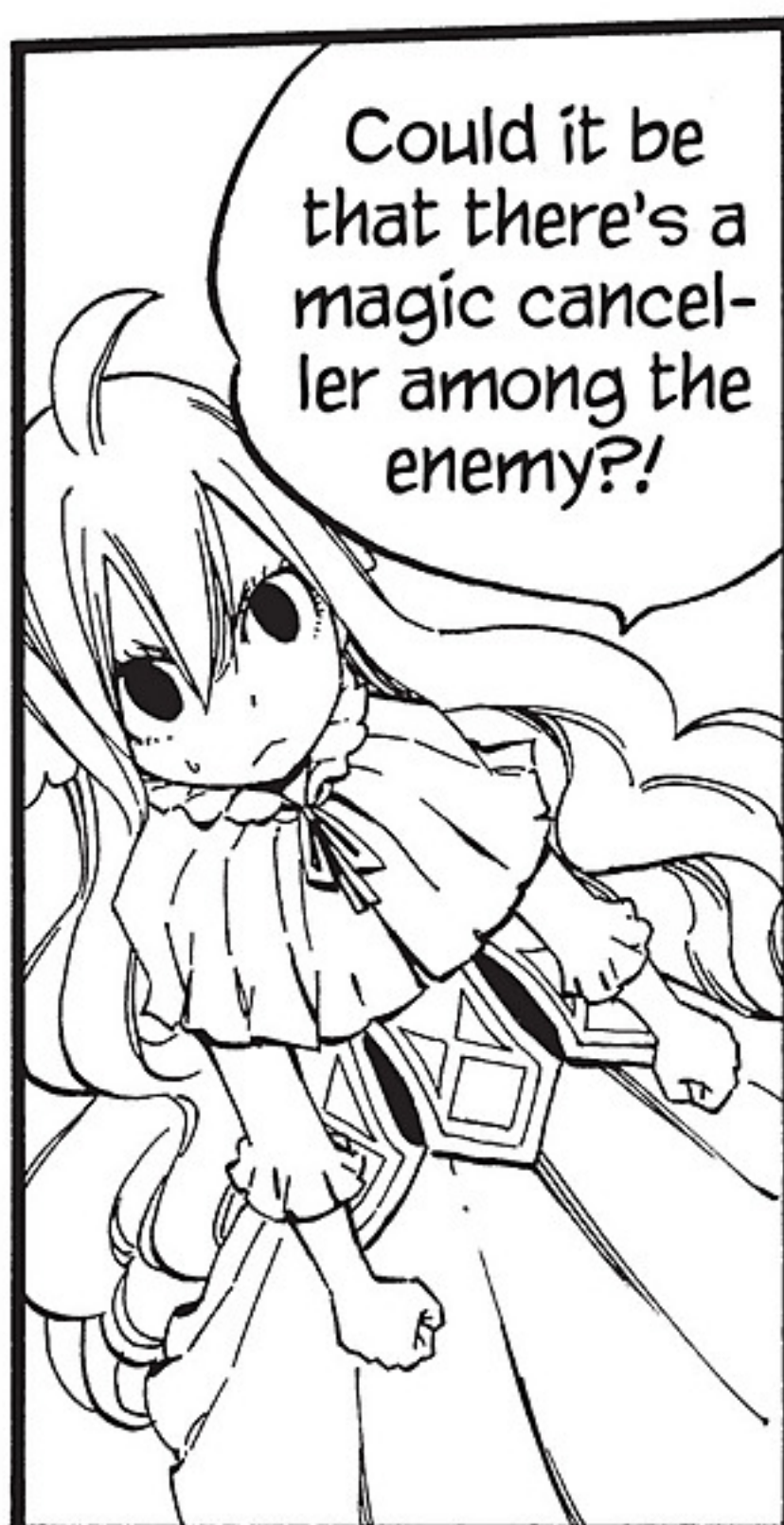
Ha ha!!

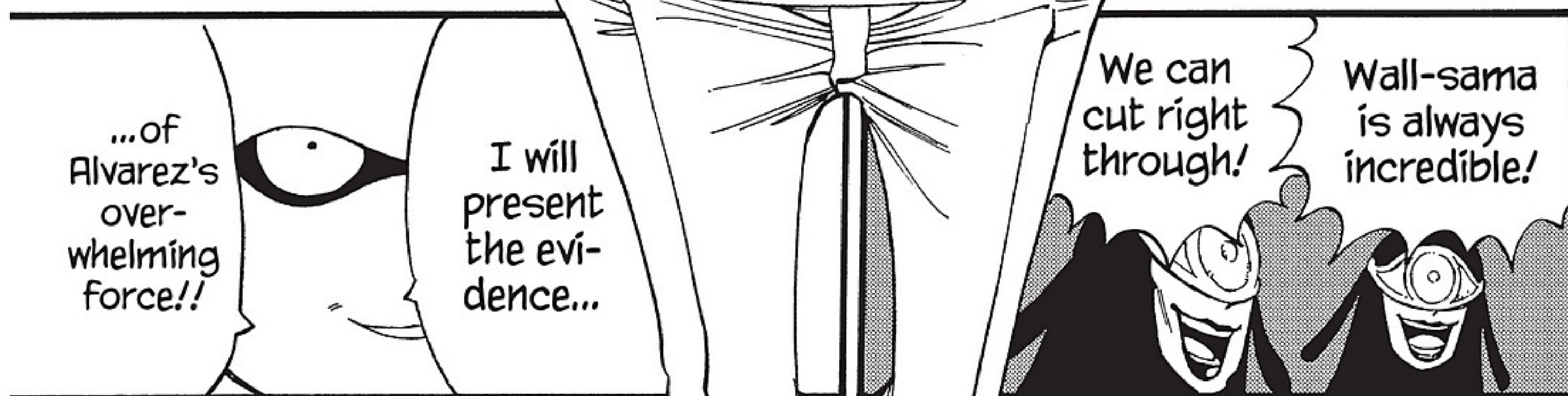


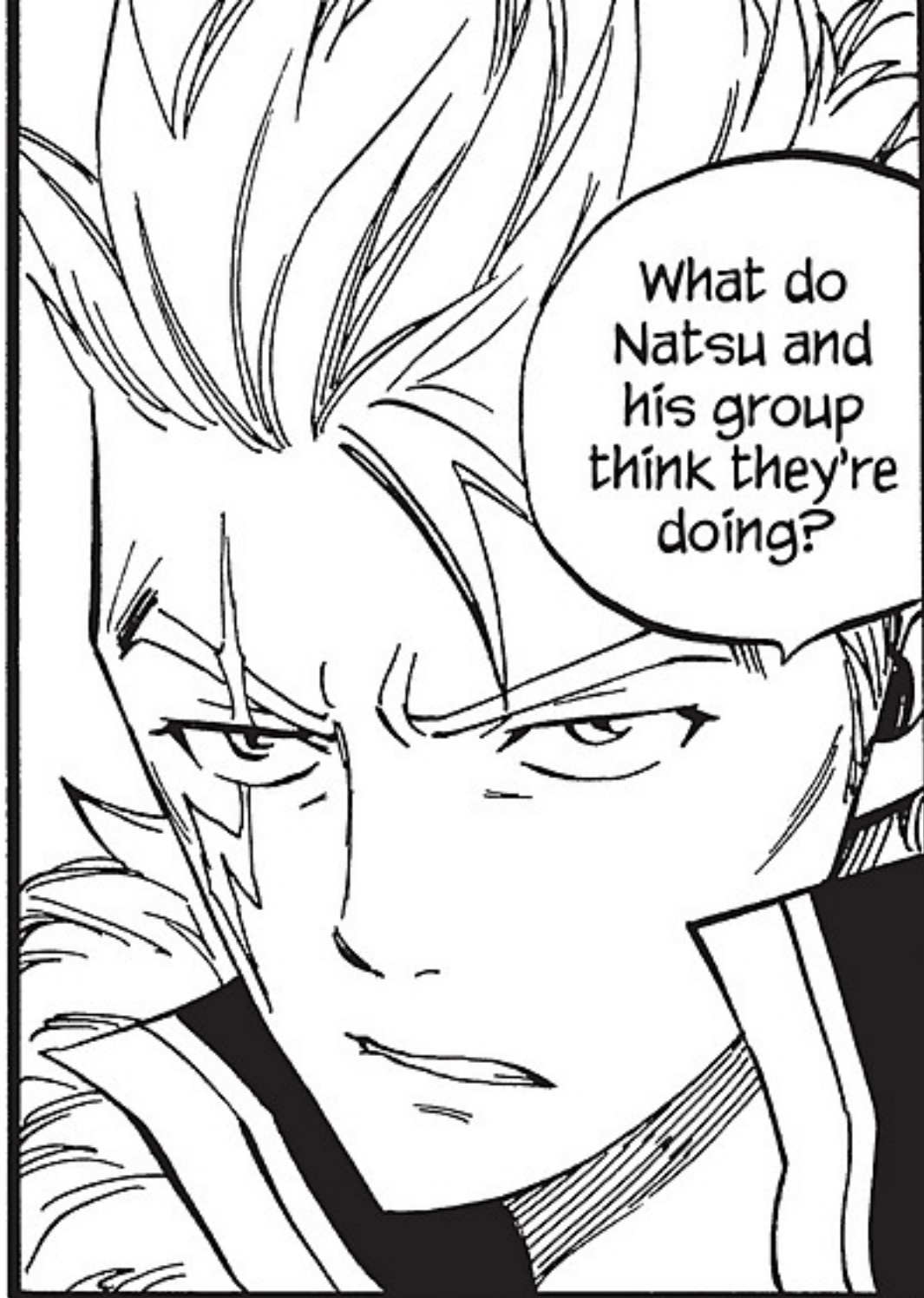




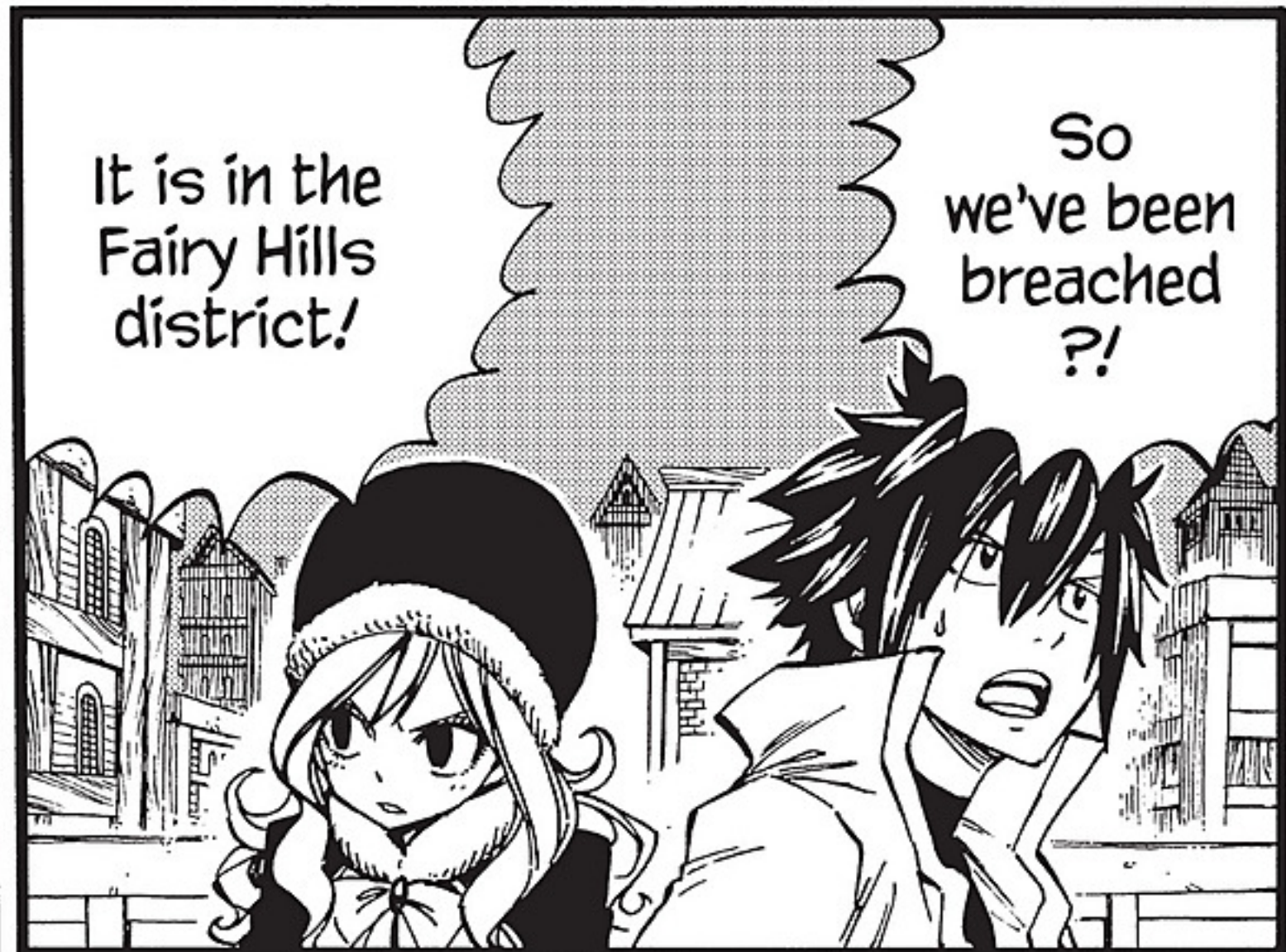
At
Kardia
Cathedral...





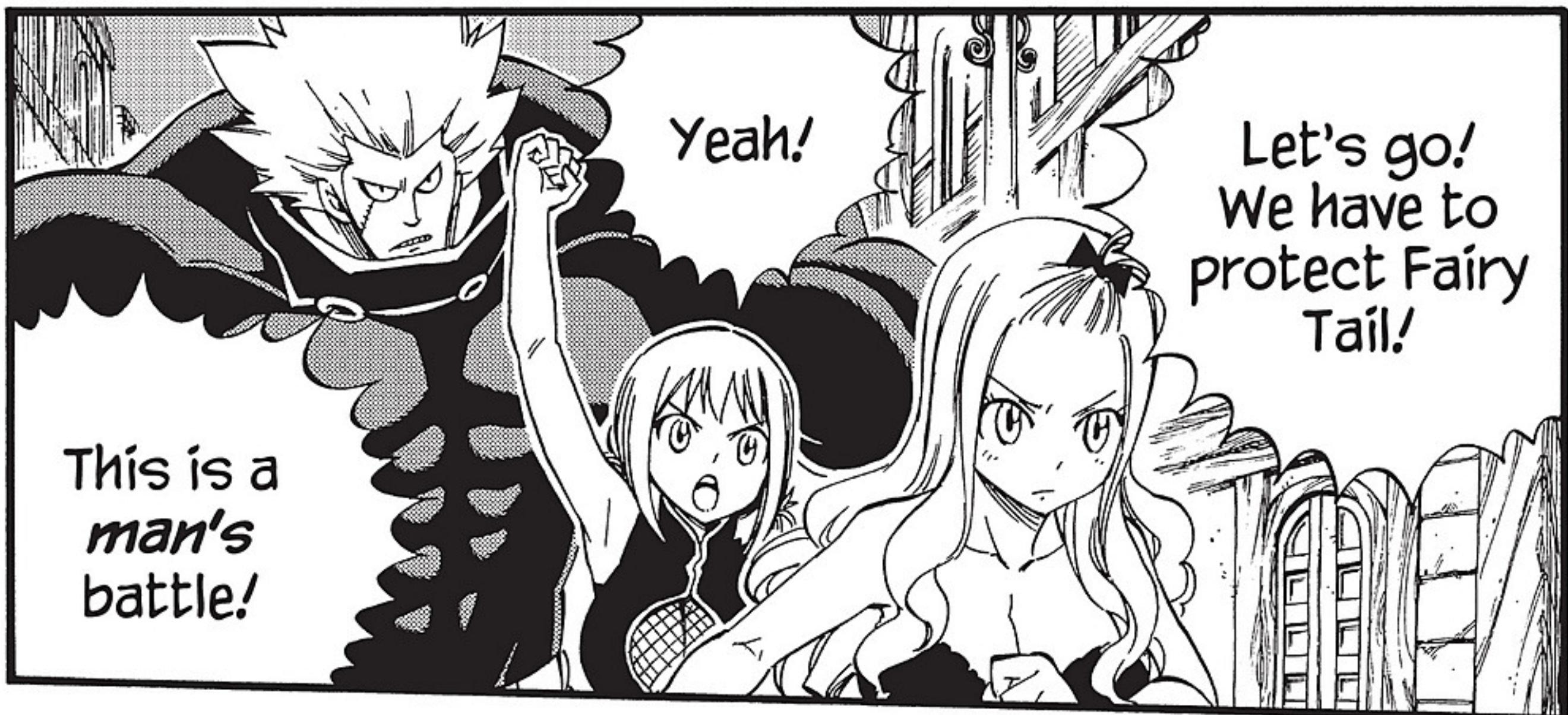


What do
Natsu and
his group
think they're
doing?



It is in the
Fairy Hills
district!

So
we've been
breached
?!



This is a
man's
battle!

Yeah!

Let's go!
We have to
protect Fairy
Tail!

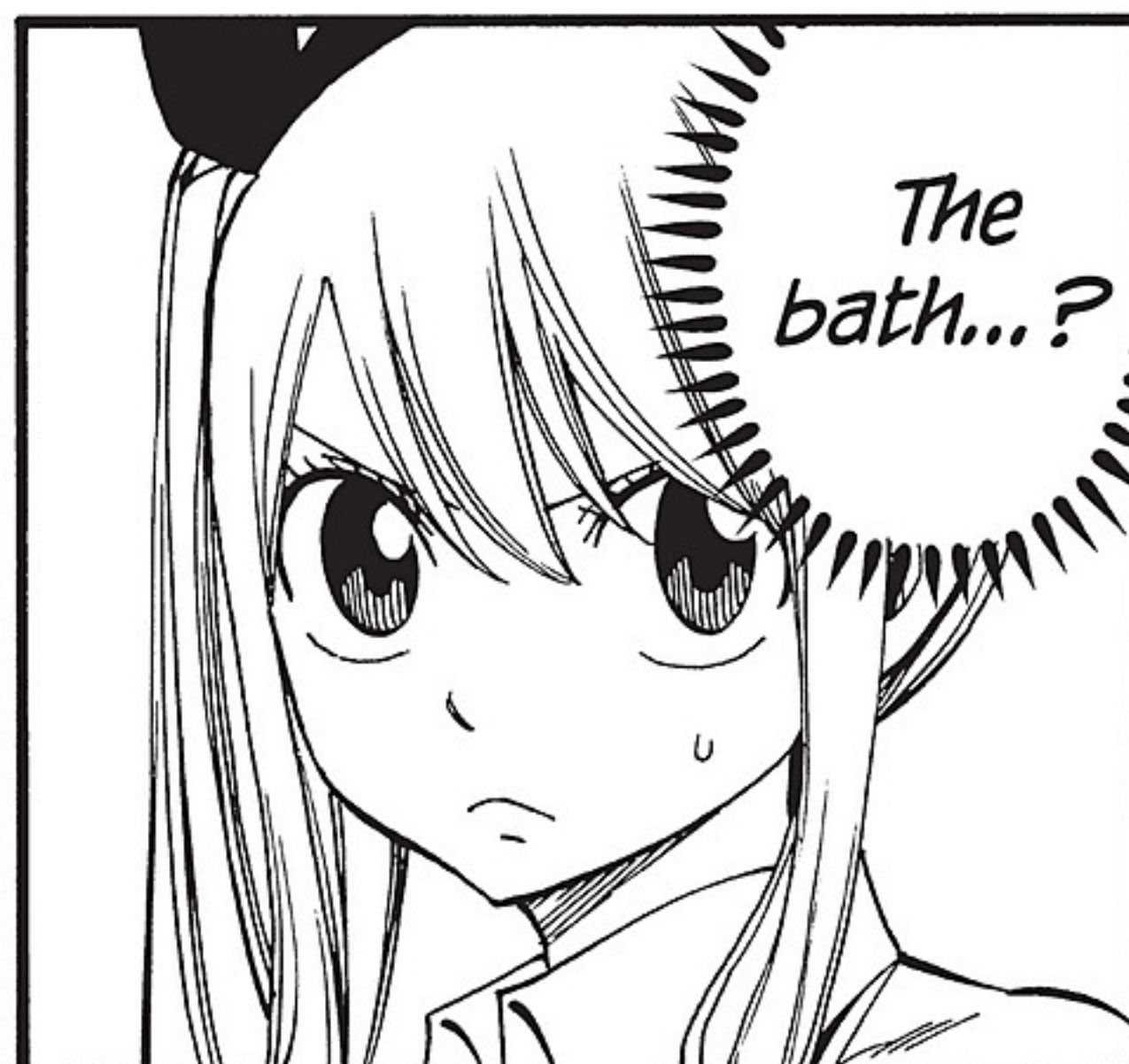
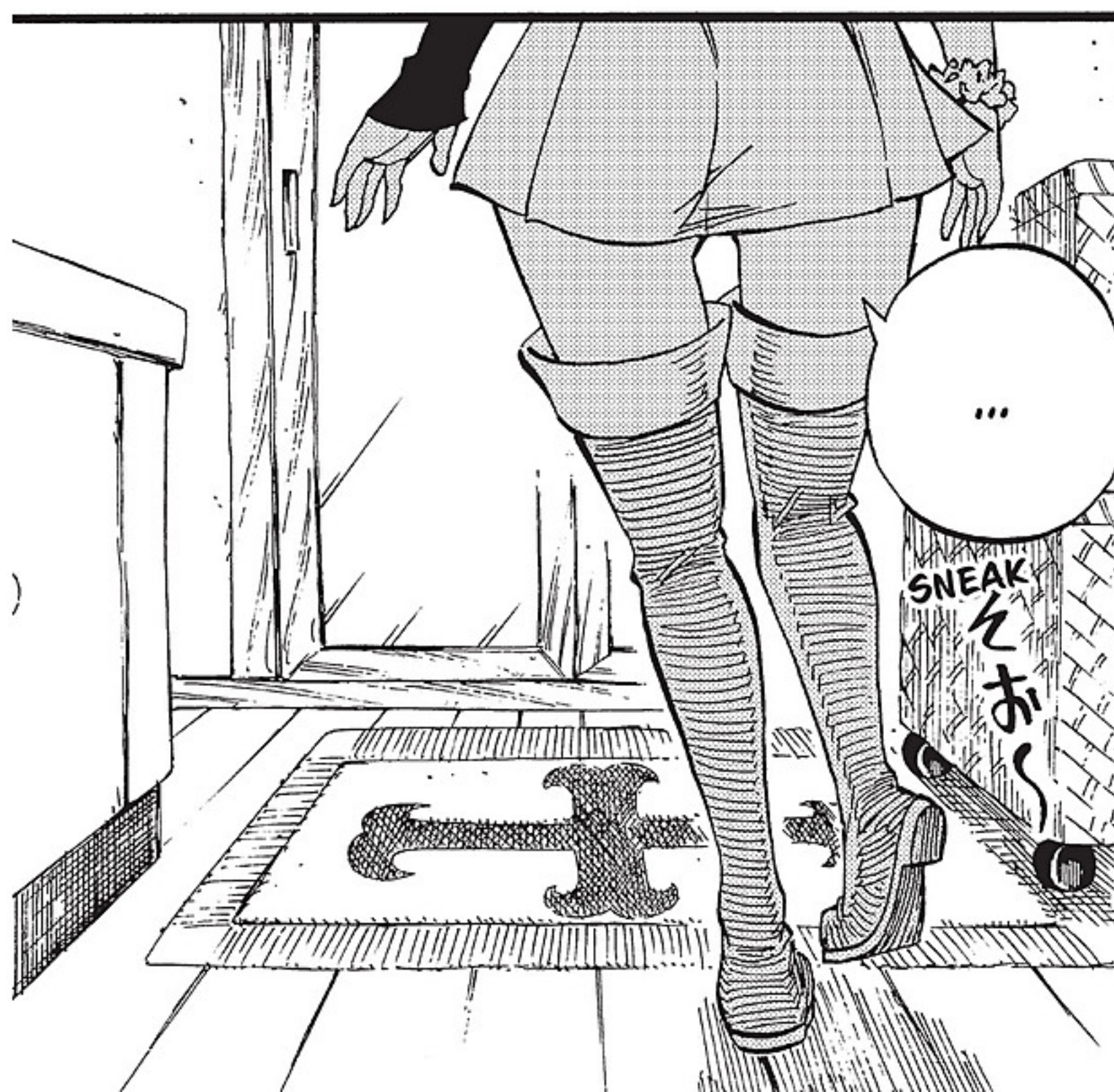
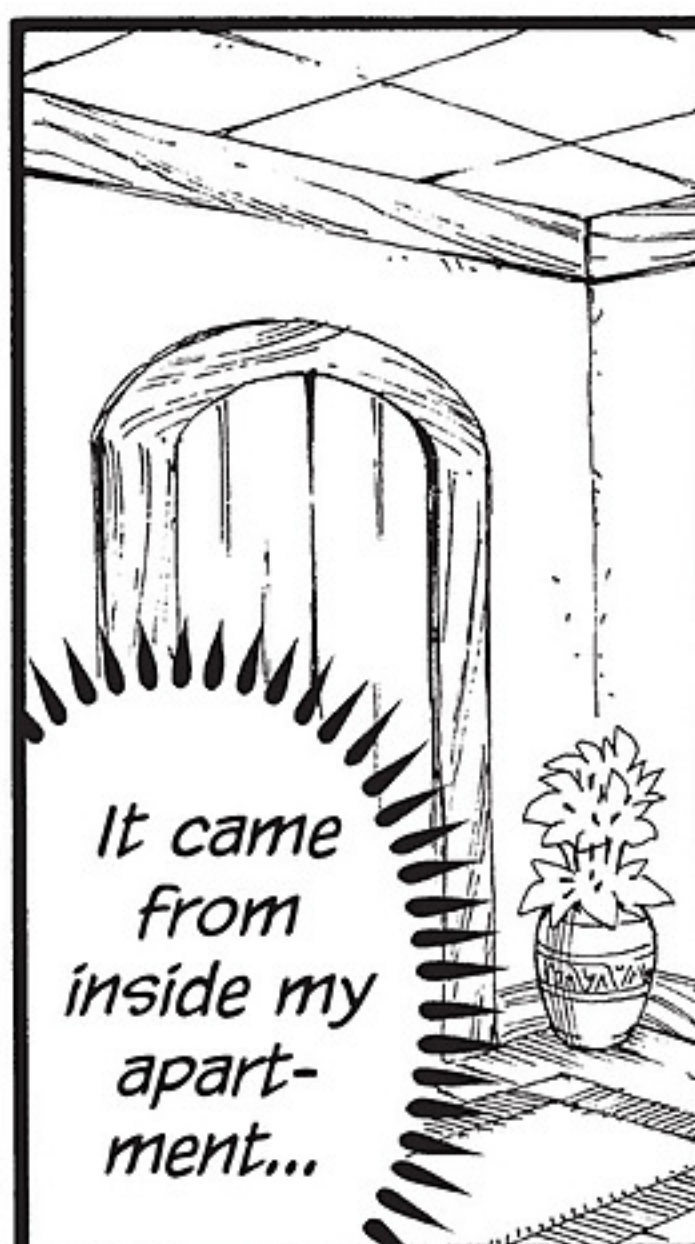
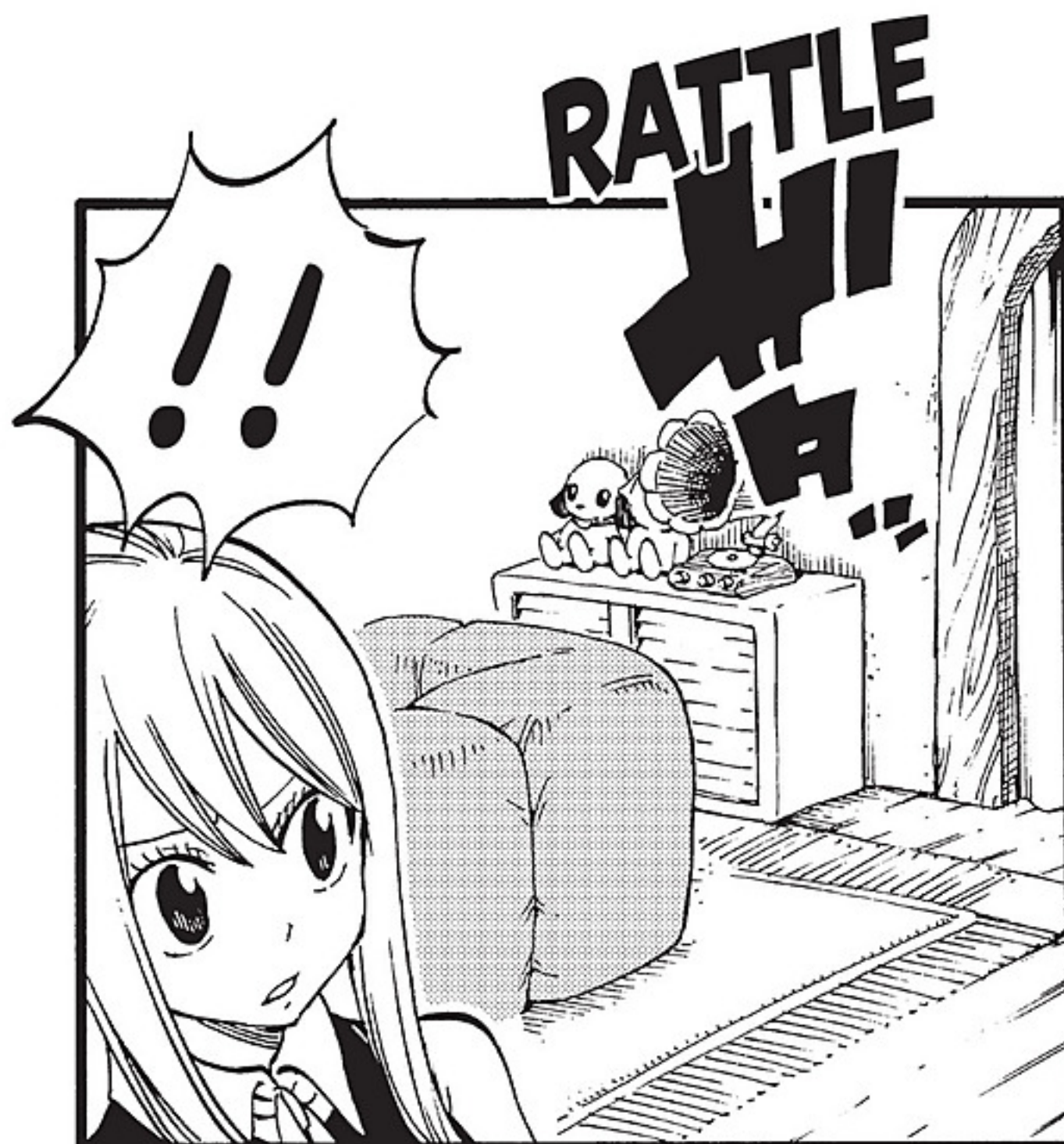


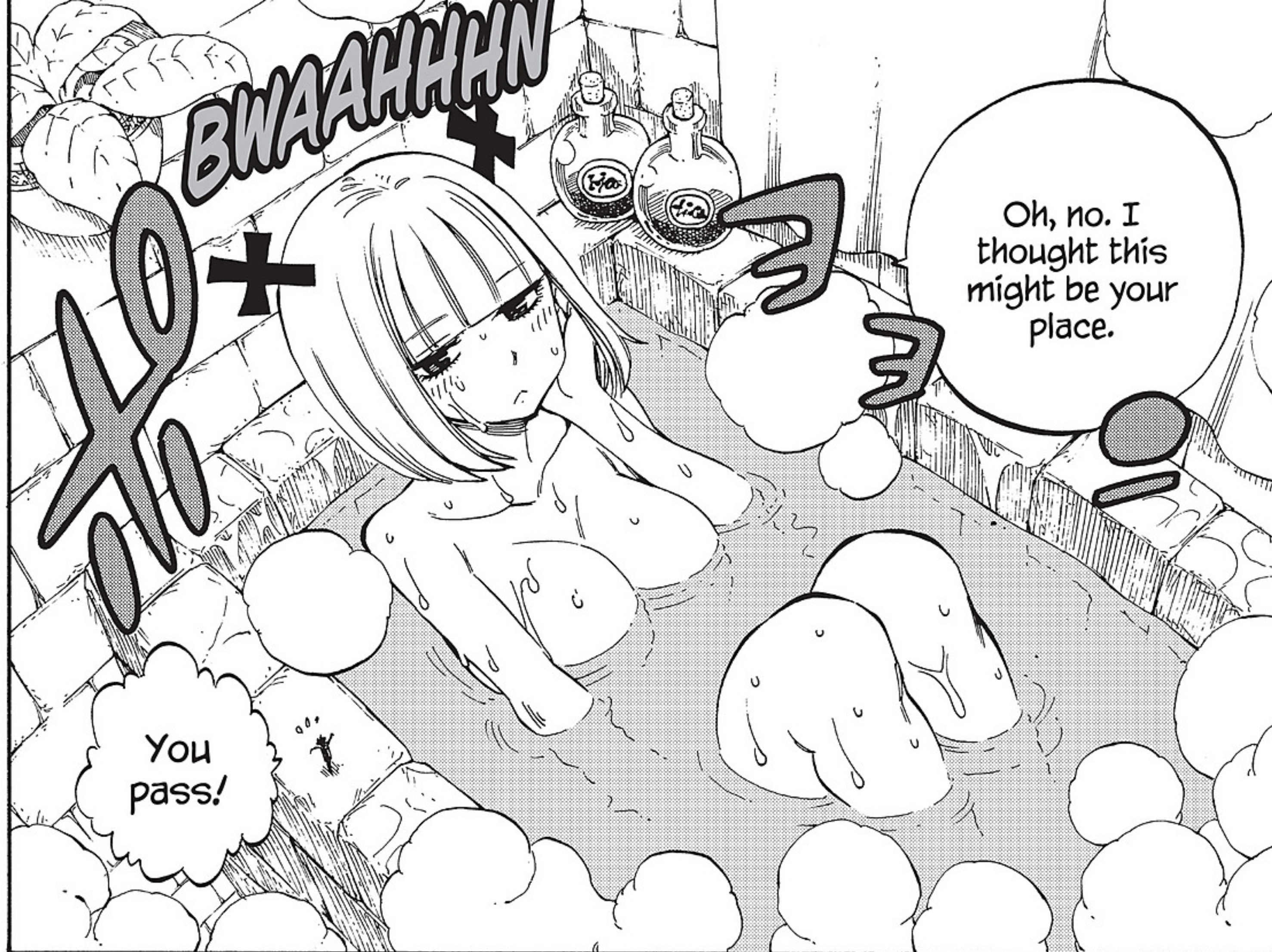
SNATCH
1:10

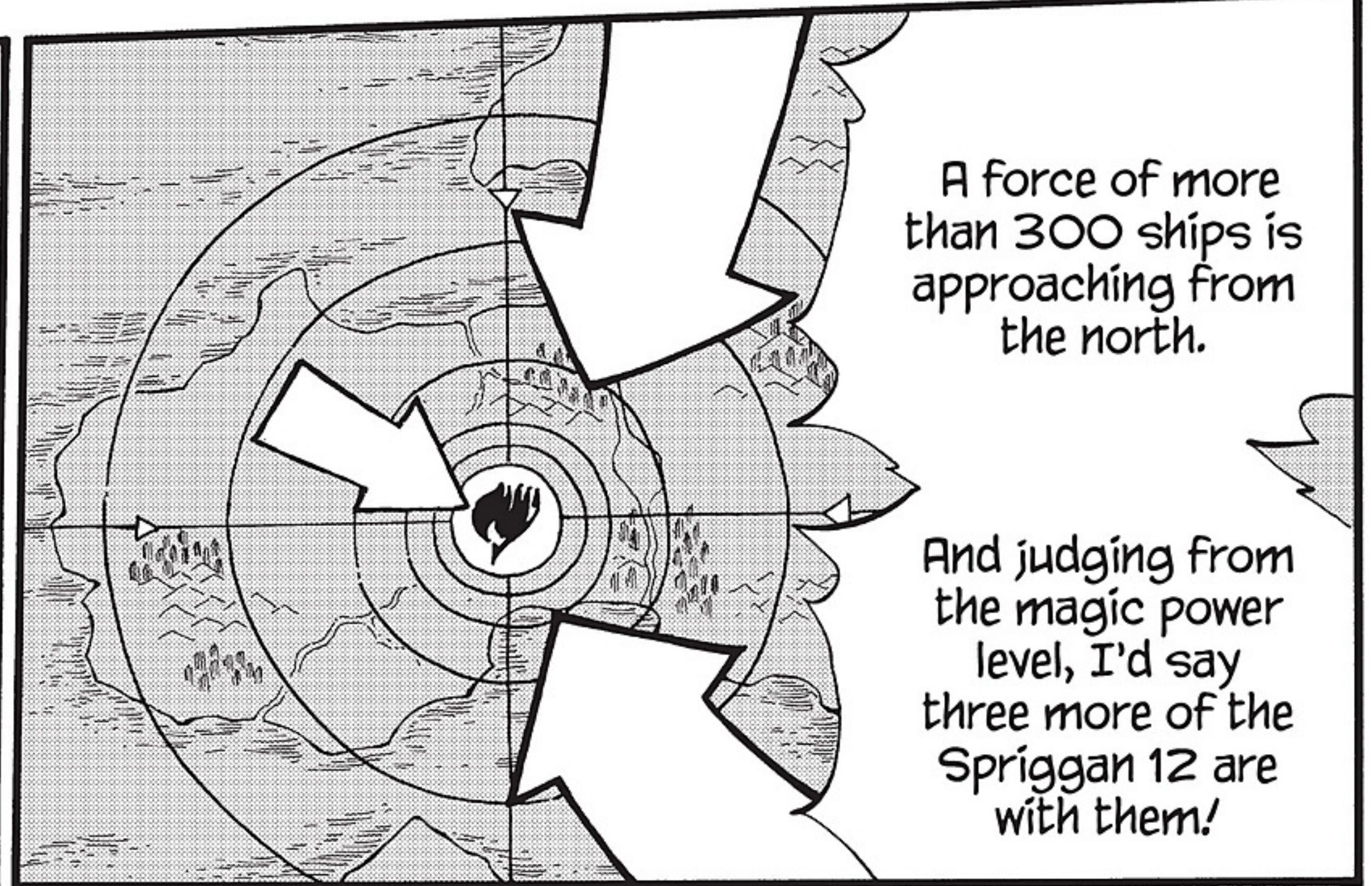
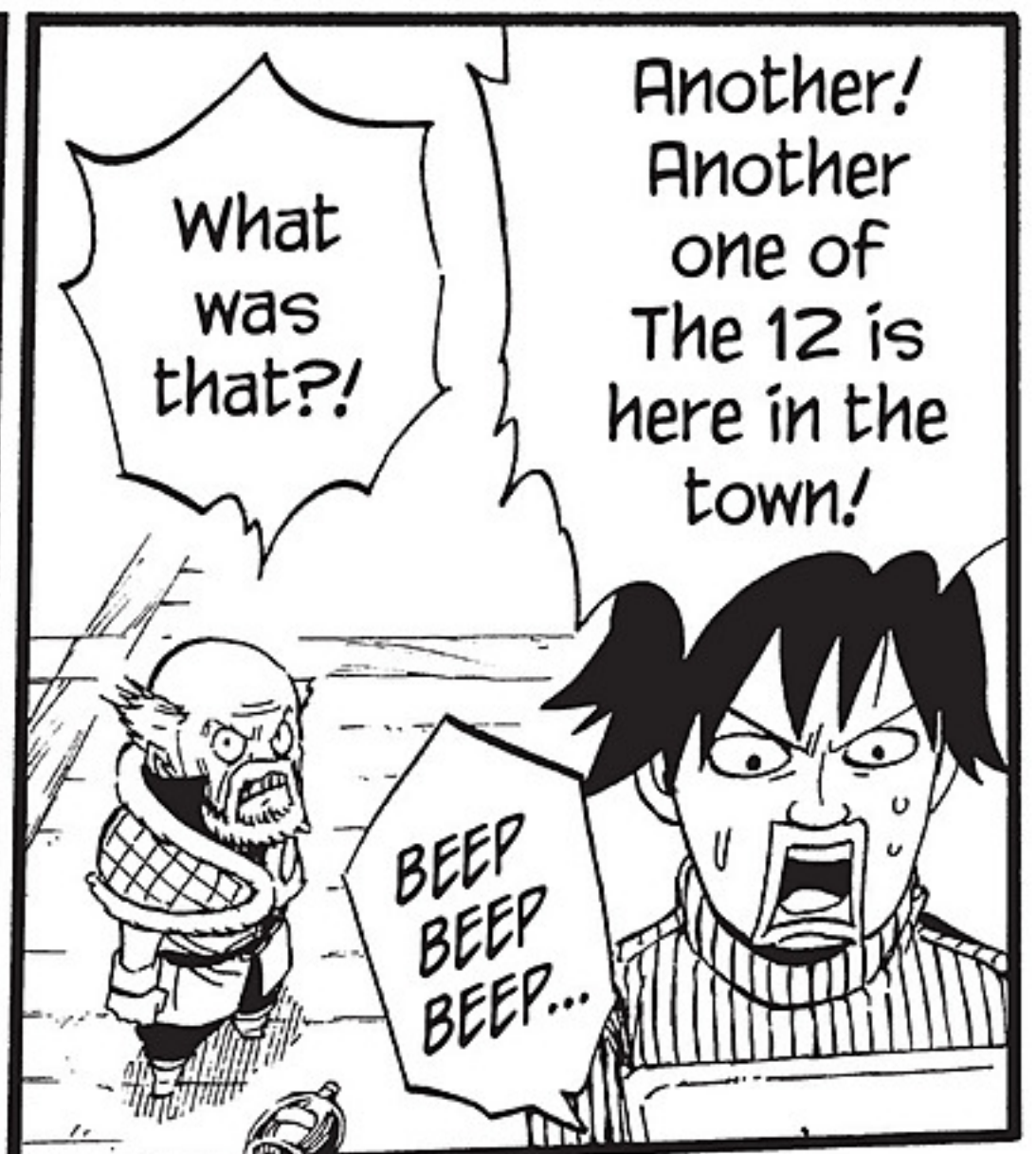
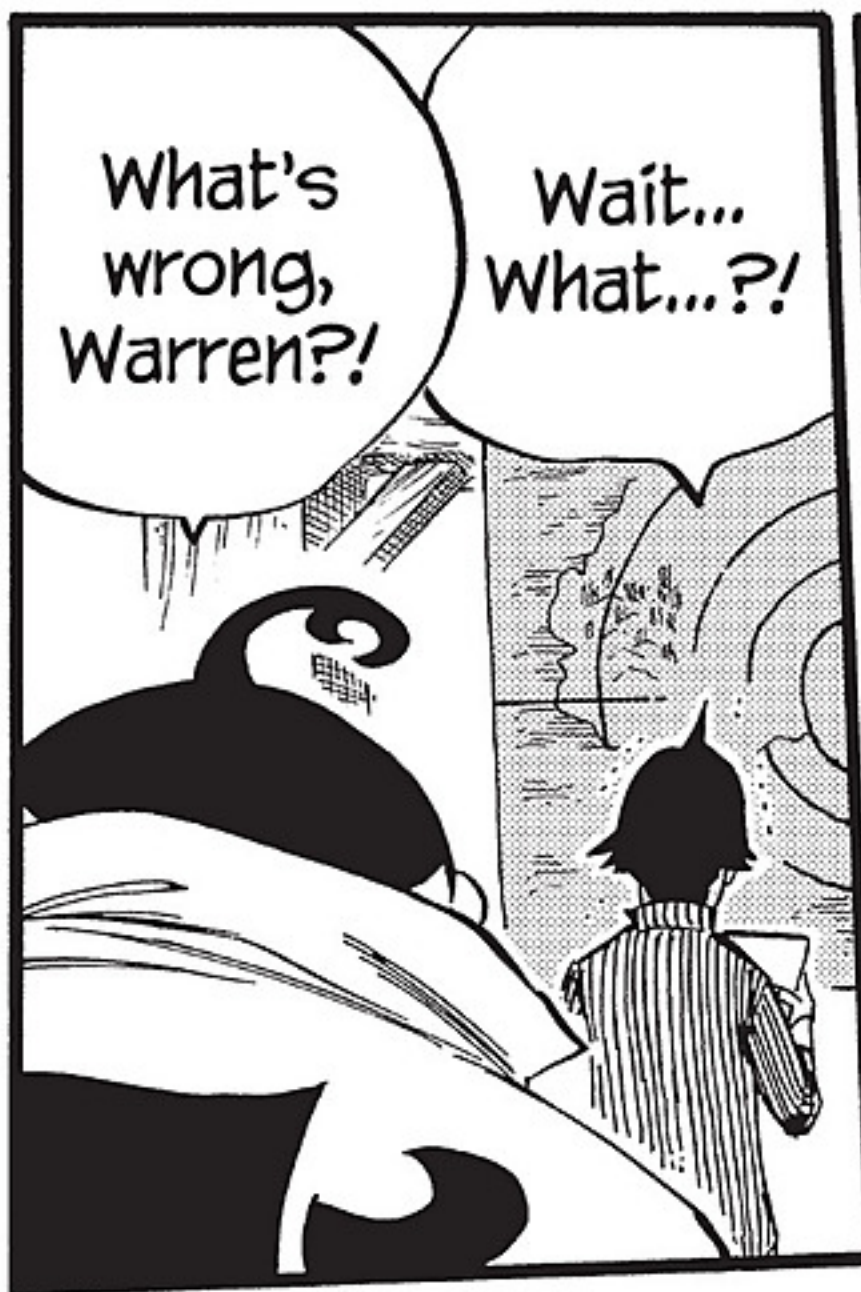


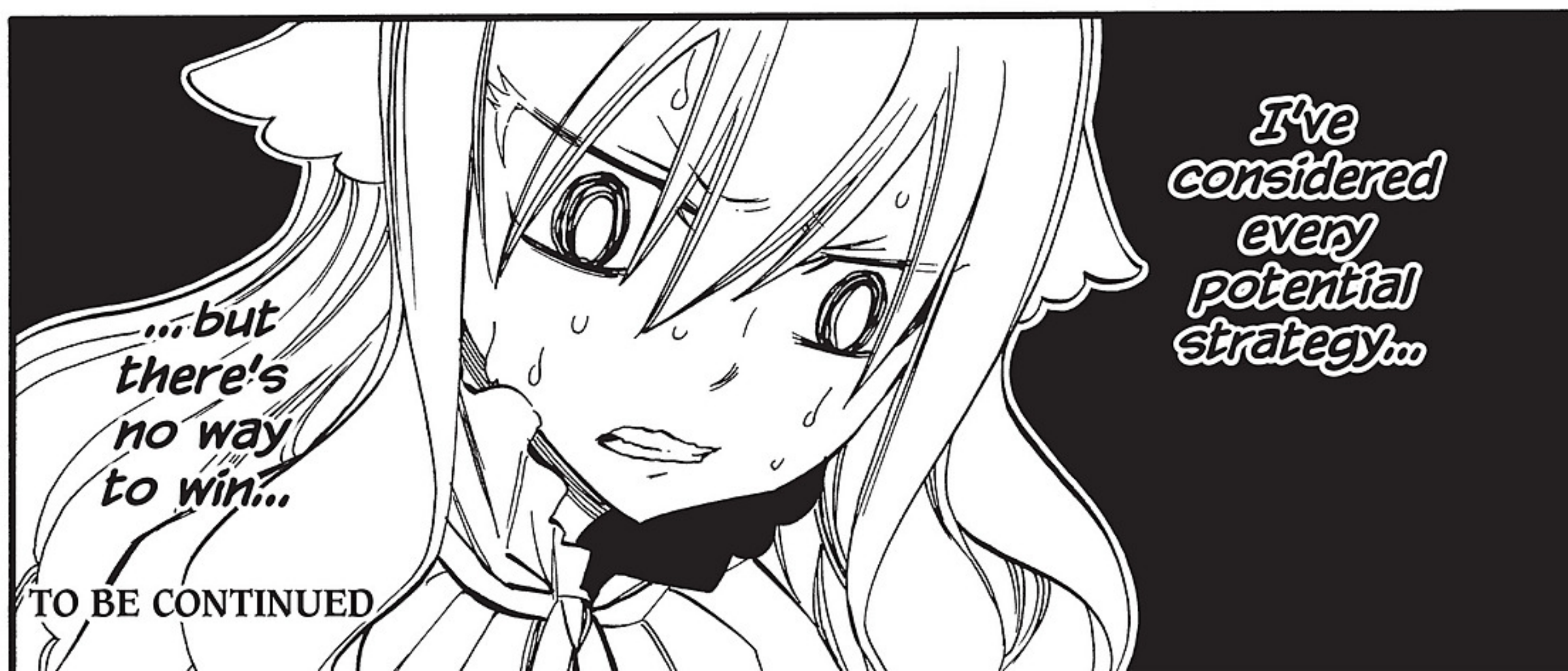
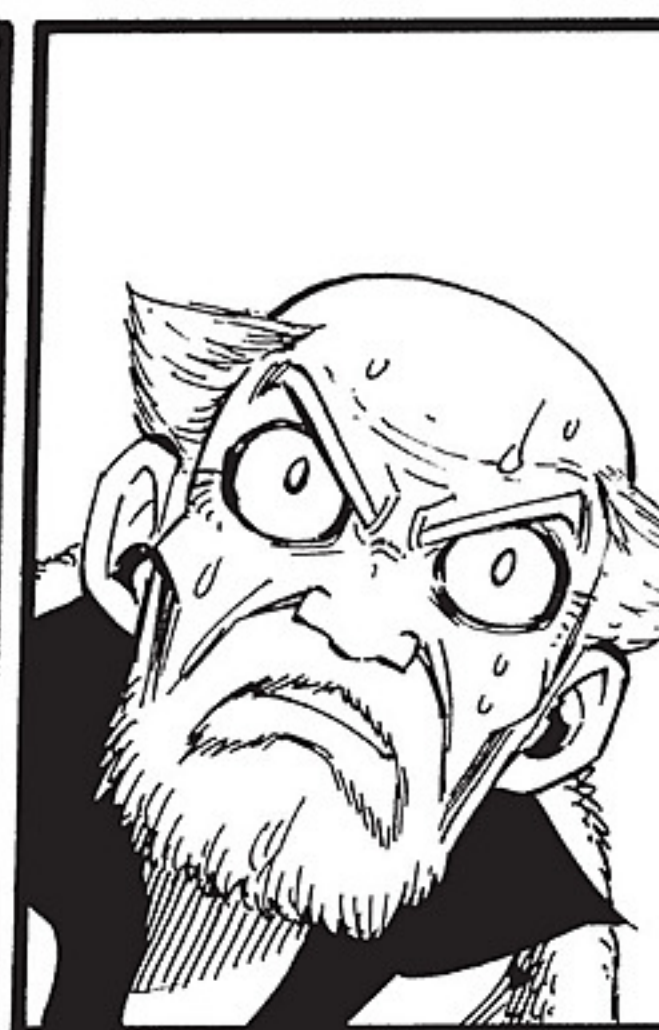
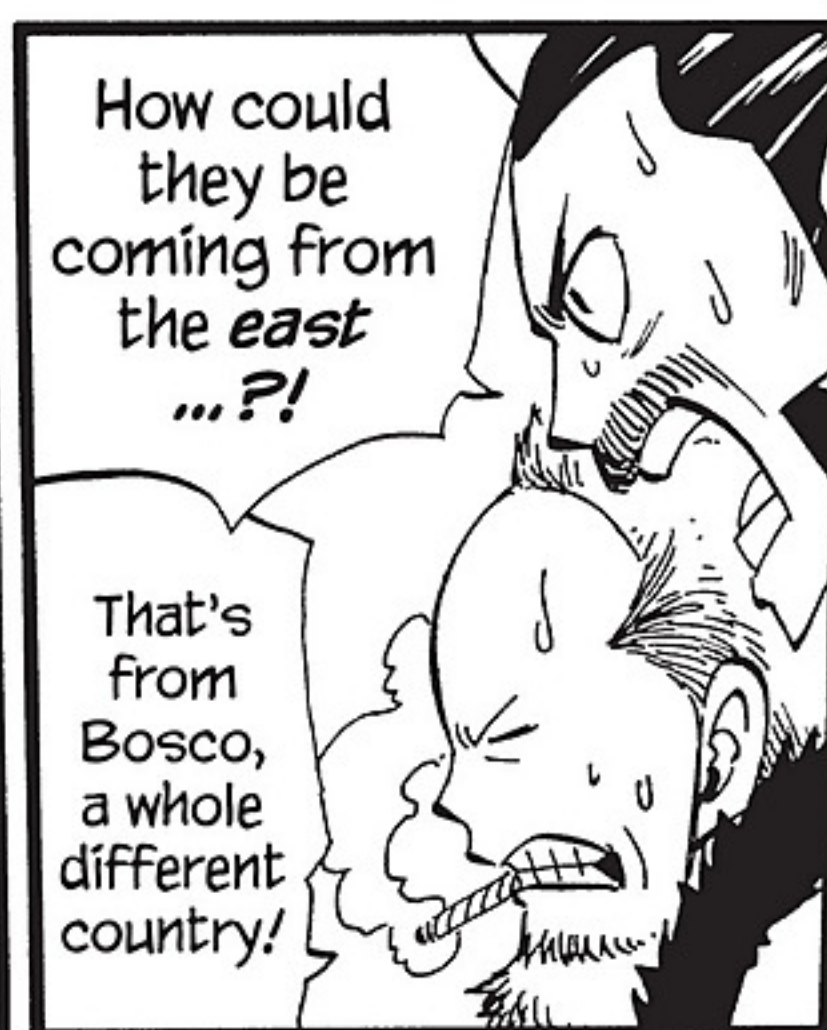
At
Lucy's
place...

I have
to get
out there,
too!









TO BE CONTINUED



Afterword

In this volume, the story from Mavis's flashback scene are from the events in "Fairy Tail Zer0." Of course, I wrote it so that you don't have to read "Fairy Tail Zer0" to understand the story, but if you do, I think you'll get more out of the story.

I had decided on the relationship between Mavis and Zeref quite a long time ago, but it seems that there were an awful lot of fans who were surprised by it, and that makes me very happy! I wanted to draw the kiss scene between Zeref and Mavis in more detail, but with Mavis's body the way it is, I eventually came to the conclusion that doing it in silhouette would be both more beautiful and effective. So that's the way it came out. By the way, no matter what Mavis may look like on the outside, in terms of age, she was very much an adult.

After accidentally creating Fairy Heart, Precht then went on to research magic, and that was when he happened to touch on black magic. And unfortunately, he went on to establish Grimoire Heart through the knowledge he gained in researching Fairy Heart; the connection was "heart."

Now that I've explained quite a few of the mysteries I've foreshadowed in the series, we're now beginning the final battle. And I think this arc will have the biggest twists and turns. What with Natsu, Zeref, Mavis, Fairy Tail's members, Acnologia, and the mixture of all sorts of feelings and emotions, I'm sure it's going to build to something spectacular!!

So I hope you all stay tuned!!

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

The Fairy Tail Guild is looking for illustrations! Please send in your art on a post card or at post-card size, and do it in black pen, okay? Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your illustration!

FAIRY TAIL GUILD d'ART

Whoa! ♪
Everybody's
turned into
Lummy!
She's really
impactful in
the anime!



Saitama Prefecture, Mayu Suzuki



Mie Prefecture, An Nagai

▼So how do you think the
Spriggan 12 will measure up?



Hyogo Prefecture, Miyuki Takuchi



Miyazaki Prefecture, Nekobuu

It's an
illustration
from Fairy
Tail Zero!
Thank you!

▲ Carla in human form—I like
this form, too!



Akita Prefecture, Aika Suzuki

Now
this is
cool!
And the
straight-
profile
shot
really
looks
good!

Hokkaido, Shinto Ishikawa



▲ Brandish is pretty popular!
She really wreaks havoc!



Tokyo, Mameko Kakarichis

▲ You can be sure you'll
get your money's worth
of action for these two in
this story!



Tochigi Prefecture, Norben

▲ What a cute illustration!
Everyone's having so much
fun!



Shizuoka Prefecture, Absu-ohi

▲ Now this is a cool image that could symbolize
the whole Alvarez Arc!



Fukuoka Prefecture, Keisuke Shirahishi

Very true...♪

What
a weird
face.

By sending in letters or
postcards, you give us
permission to give your name,
address, postal code, and
any other information you
include to the author as is.
Please keep that in mind.



Kanagawa Prefecture, Ten Sora

▲ You know I think Juvia
and Wendy seem like they'd
team up great, but just
haven't yet!



Hiroshima Prefecture, Kotori Nakamoto

▲ Thanks so much for
supporting the new
characters! These two
will get their time to shine
someday!



Okayama Prefecture, Ayumi Takeuchi



Osaka, Cans

▲ There are a lot of people
who think these two go well
together. I think so, too.

FROM HIRO MASHIMA



I heard that you can draw on an iPad when you have an iPad Pro and an Apple Pencil. I tried it right away—here's the result.

I still don't know all the ins and outs of the program, but being able to sketch on a whim, anywhere you go, is pretty neat!

It kinda makes me want to try every new digital drawing tool the moment it comes out.

I just know that the digital paint tool of my dreams will come out any day now! It gets me all pumped up!

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

53



HIRO 真島ヒロ MASHINA

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Alvarez Empire

Previously, in volume 52, the Alvarez Empire was translated as the "Albareth" Empire, due to the Japanese pronunciation. However, it has since come to light that the correct English spelling is "Alvarez." We apologize for any confusion.

Page 49, Gaebolg (Precht's last name)

Gae Bolg is a famous weapon in the Irish myth, *The Ulster Cycle*. Its name has many possible meanings such as: spear of death, spear of mortal pain, notched spear, and belly spear. According to the legend, it was made from the bone of a sea monster and given to the hero Cu Chulainn by his teacher who taught him how to fight. It is a recurring weapon in the *Final Fantasy* video game series.

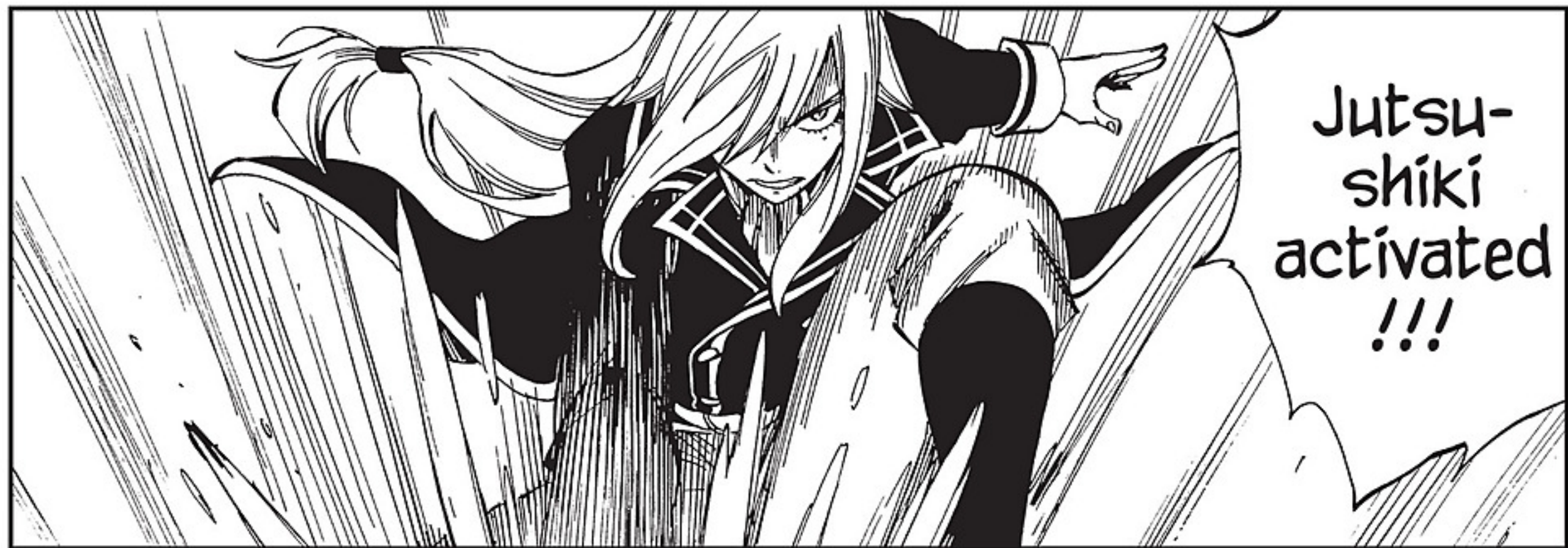
Page 120, Wall Eehto

Wall Eehto is a play on the Japanese term *warui hito* which translates to "bad guy." This translation romanized his name rather than create a name out of English such as "Vill Inn" or something similar.



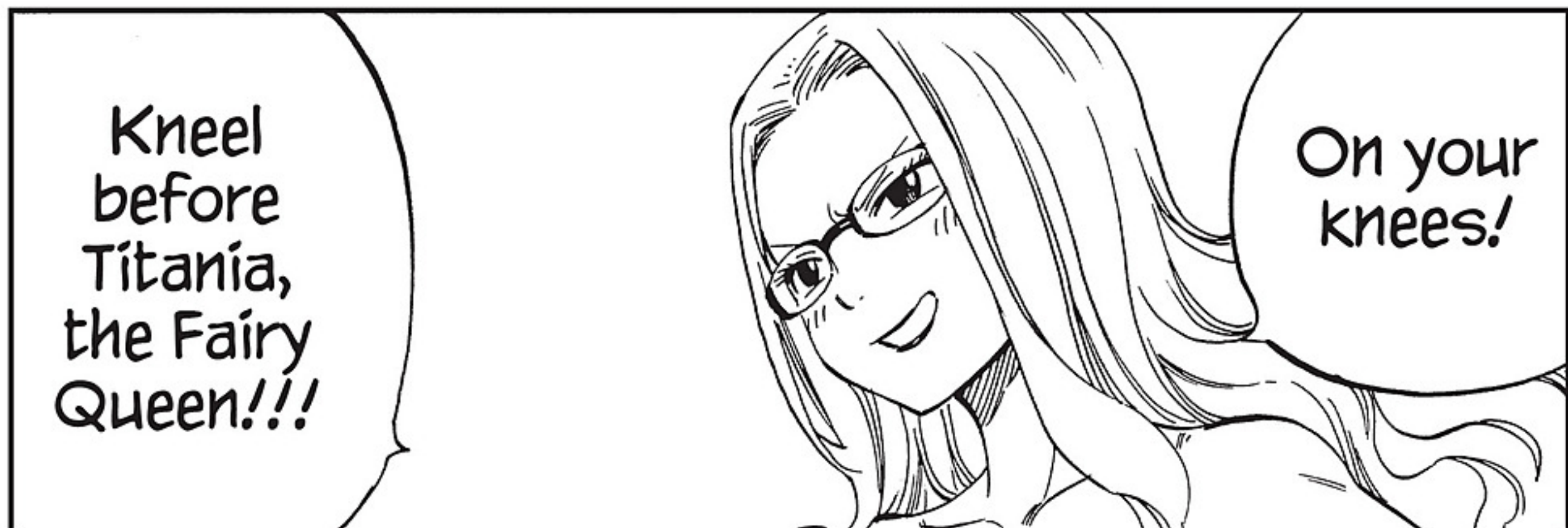
Page 153, Jutsu-shiki

As noted in the translator's notes for Volume 13, Jutsu-shiki is taken from two Japanese words, *jutsu* meaning "technique," and *shiki* meaning "ceremony" or "style." Fried's magic seems to be based on traditional Japanese Buddhist and Shinto practices of hanging wards to protect against evil.



Page 168, Titania

Titania is best known as the Queen of the Fairies in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as the estranged wife of Oberon and the one who falls in love with the character Bottom, even when his head is changed to that of a donkey's. Shakespeare got her name from the ancient Roman poet Ovid and his poem, *Metamorphoses*.



Page 175, Bakel

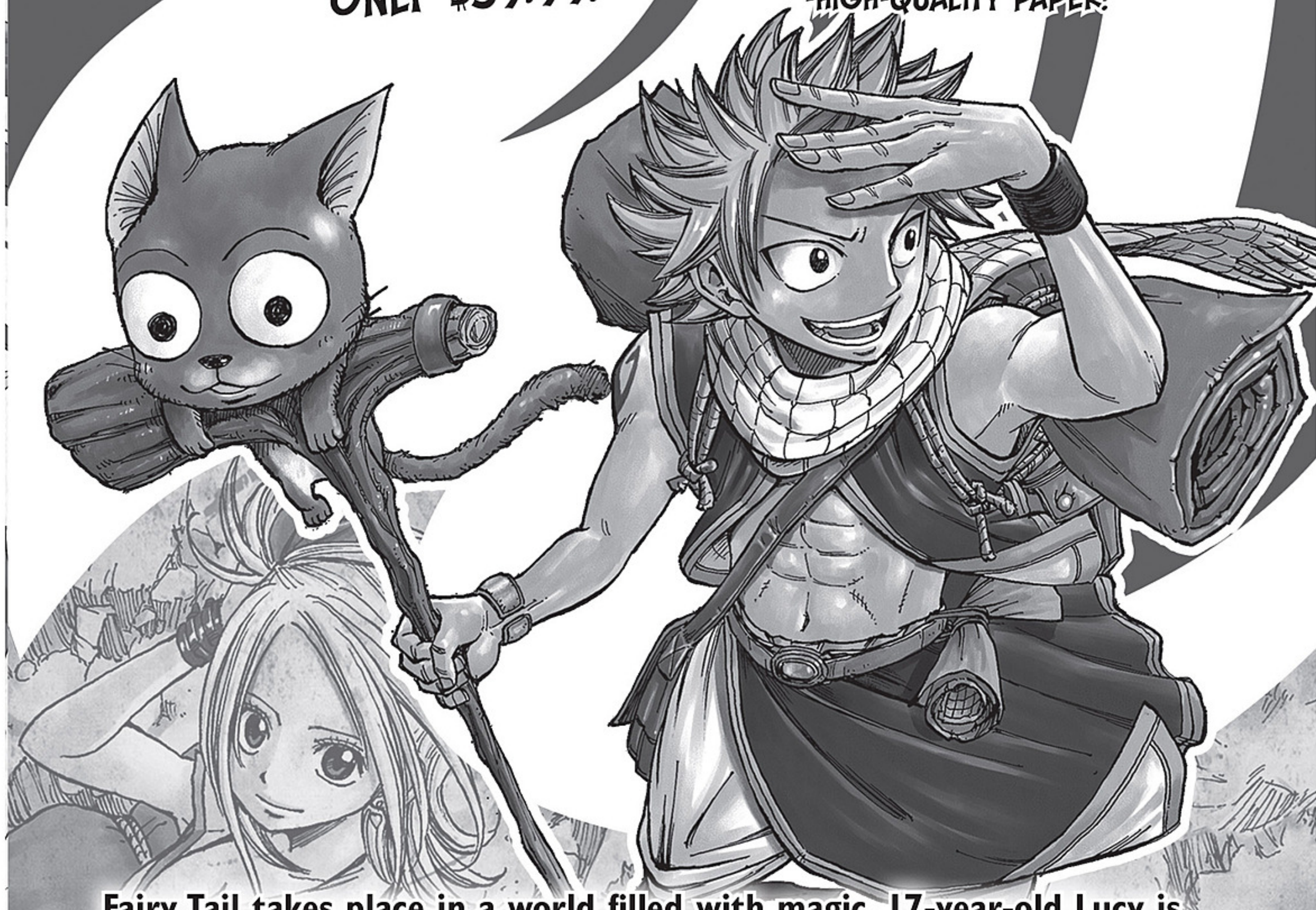
Bakel is written in Japanese as *bakeru*, which is a Japanese word meaning "to change shape." It most commonly refers to supernatural shape-shifters who haunt, deceive, or cause trouble in the human world.



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FAIRY TAIL

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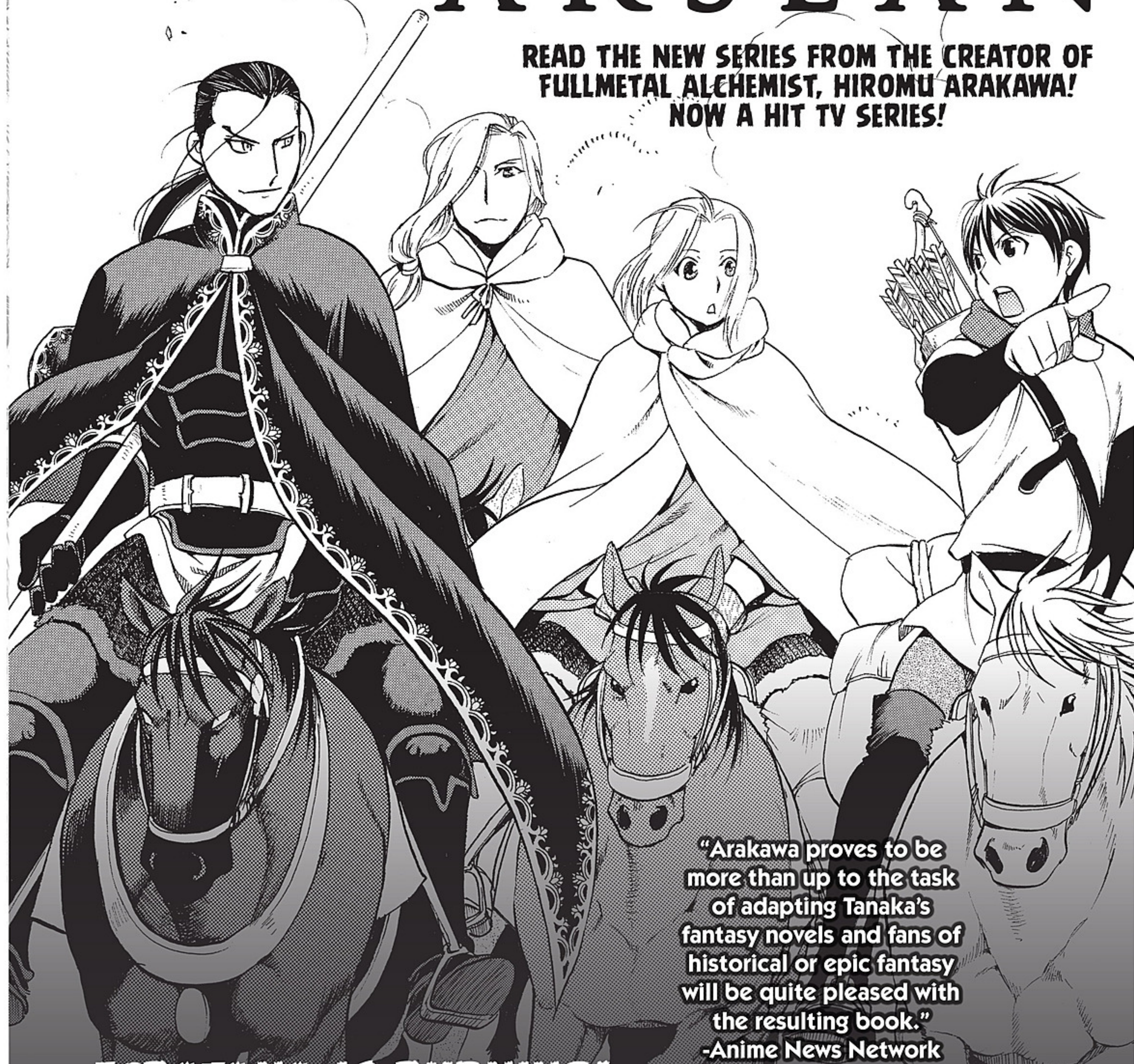
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more than up to the task
of adapting Tanaka's
fantasy novels and fans of
historical or epic fantasy
will be quite pleased with
the resulting book."
-Anime News Network**

ECBATANA IS BURNING!

Arslan is the young and curious prince of Pars who, despite his best efforts doesn't seem to have what it takes to be a proper king like his father. At the age of 14, Arslan goes to his first battle and loses everything as the blood-soaked mist of war gives way to scorching flames, bringing him to face the demise of his once glorious kingdom. However, it is Arslan's destiny to be a ruler, and despite the trials that face him, he must now embark on a journey to reclaim his fallen kingdom.

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Maria

THE VIRGIN WITCH

"Maria's brand of righteous justice, passion and plain talking make for one of the freshest manga series of 2015. I dare any other book to top it."

—UK Anime Network

PURITY AND POWER

As a war to determine the rightful ruler of medieval France ravages the land, the witch Maria decides she will not stand idly by as men kill each other in the name of God and glory. Using her powerful magic, she summons various beasts and demons—even going as far as using a succubus to seduce soldiers into submission under the veil of night—all to stop the needless slaughter. However, after the Archangel Michael puts an end to her meddling, he curses her to lose her powers if she ever gives up her virginity. Will she forgo the forbidden fruit of adulthood in order to bring an end to the merciless machine of war?

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PRAISE FOR THE ANIME!

"This series never fails to
put a smile on my face."
-Dramatic Reviews

"A very funny look at what happens when
two strange and strangely well-suited people
try to navigate the thorny path to true love
together."

-Anime News Network



My Little Monster

OPPOSITES ATTRACT...MAYBE?

Haru Yoshida is feared as an unstable and violent "monster." Mizutani Shizuku is a grade-obsessed student with no friends. Fate brings these two together to form the most unlikely pair. Haru firmly believes he's in love with Mizutani and she firmly believes he's insane.

Yamada-kun AND THE Seven Witches

"A very funny manga with a
lot of heart and character."
—Adventures in Poor Taste

SWAPPED WITH A KISS?! 現代 高等

Class troublemaker Ryu Yamada is already having a bad day when he stumbles down a staircase along with star student Urara Shiraishi. When he wakes up, he realizes they have switched bodies—and that Ryu has the power to trade places with anyone just by kissing them! Ryu and Urara take full advantage of the situation to improve their lives, but with such an oddly amazing power, just how long will they be able to keep their secret under wraps?

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DEVIL SURVIVOR

デビルサバイバー

AFTER DEMONS BREAK THROUGH INTO THE HUMAN WORLD, TOKYO MUST BE QUARANTINED. WITHOUT POWER AND STUCK IN A SUPERNATURAL WARZONE, 17-YEAR-OLD KAZUYA HAS ONLY ONE HOPE: HE MUST USE THE "COMP," A DEVICE CREATED BY HIS COUSIN NAOYA CAPABLE OF SUMMONING AND SUBDUING DEMONS, TO DEFEAT THE INVADERS AND TAKE BACK THE CITY.

BASED ON THE POPULAR
VIDEO GAME FRANCHISE BY
ATLUS!



Praise for the anime:

"The show provides a pleasant window on the highs and lows of young love with two young people who are first timers at the real thing."

-The Fandom Post

"Always it is smarter, more poetic, more touching, just plain better than you think it is going to be."

-Anime News Network



Say I Love You.



Mei Tachibana has no friends — and says she doesn't need them!

But everything changes when she accidentally roundhouse kicks the most popular boy in school! However, Yamato Kurosawa isn't angry in the slightest — in fact, he thinks his ordinary life could use an unusual girl like Mei. But winning Mei's trust will be a tough task. How long will she refuse to say, "I love you"?

a Silent Voice

"A harsh and biting social commentary... delivers in its depth of character and emotional strength." -Comics Bulletin

"The word heartwarming was made for manga like this."
-Manga Bookshelf

"A very powerful story about being different and the consequences of childhood bullying... Read it."
-Anime News Network



Shoya is a bully. When Shoko, a girl who can't hear, enters his elementary school class, she becomes their favorite target, and Shoya and his friends goad each other into devising new tortures for her. But the children's cruelty goes too far. Shoko is forced to leave the school, and Shoya ends up shouldering all the blame. Six years later, the two meet again. Can Shoya make up for his past mistakes, or is it too late?

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SHERLOCK BONES

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682332481

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: William Flanagan
Lettering: AndWorld Design
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